Everyone at The GEM wishes all of our readers and advertisers a very peaceful Christmas and every good fortune in the New Year. We are now taking a festive break and will not be publishing next week, but we will be back again on Thursday, January 5.

The Glamorgan GEM

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Established 1983

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/10 - **41,621** (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND 2011

New DFS sofa store opens in Llantrisant

Great news for all sofa shoppers of Llantrisant. The brand new DFS store at Glamorgan Vale Retail Park opens Boxing Day.

DFS, Europe's No.1 sofa specialist, has become famous over the last 40 years for its sofas, savings and outstanding customer service. And now the furniture giant is at last coming to Llantrisant.

The New DFS store offers a huge range of exclusively designed furniture in a wide choice of styles, shapes and colours. With three UK factories, DFS don't just sell sofas, they make many of them too.

In fact, DFS sofas are built to such high standards, they give you a free 10 year guarantee on every one. Also, because your sofa is made to order, you can get exactly what you want.

And right now at the brand new Llantrisant store everything in the DFS Sale is reduced in price with Double Savings on a huge choice of the latest designs.



Grand Opening Sale Doors Open 9am Boxing Day

Double Savings
in the DFS Sale



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Doors open 9am Boxing Day

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND 2011

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'GREAT DISTRESS' FOR CHILDREN

Man jailed for burgling home of young family

A LOCAL family suffered great distress after their home was burgled by a man living nearby.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Keiron Davies (23) was jailed for two and a half years.

Judge Philip Richards said Davies had caused immense upset to three vulnerable victims.

Davies of Edwards Street, Barry, admitted a charge of burglary.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that soon after moving into his flat, Davies burgled the home of a mother and her two children while they were asleep.

He searched their home and took a laptop, a drill, a DVD player, and cash.

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

The family, said Mr Greenwood, suffered great distress at what occurred and the children were especially affected.

A day later, the police searched Davies's flat and found the majority of the property.

He said he had intended to sell the items to obtain money to furnish his flat.

Mr Greenwood said the family was settling down well until the burglary.

The mother said items were stolen which were essential for the children's leisure and education,and would cost hundreds of pounds to replace.

She said she was "indignant" that such a thing occurred.

One child had lost confidence and did not like being alone and she didn't know how long it would take them to recover.

David Martin, for Davies, said that some years ago, he was sectioned and had been "a nightmare" for his mother and family.

"His problem is that he won't co-operate with the authorities and won't allow a psychiatrist to examine him."

The judge said: "This was a very unpleasant dwelling house burglary, which caused a great deal of upset to the occupants, who were in their beds at the time.

"That is a serious aggravating feature. They were vulnerable victims. The choice of house seems to have been opportunistic and the occupants regarded what you stole as of great value.

"I have no choice, but to impose a lengthy prison sentence.

"It may be that you have your own problems, but until they are assessed by psychiatrists, the courts can do nothing but impose prison terms."

He said he regretted he could not make a compensation order in respect of the stolen property.

He said that Davies was well on the way to receiving the minimum sentence of three years if he committed another burglary.



ABOVE: Year–10 pupils hand over the cheque to a representative of the Children's Hospital of Wales. PHOTOGRAPH by IAN DIXON

HOMELESS HOSTEL DECISION DEFERRED

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE decision on whether there should be a homeless hostel in Porthkerry Road, Barry, will be made by the Vale Council next year.

Residents told the council's planning committee last week that they had serious concerns about what was proposed.

On Wednesday, December 14, they held a meeting at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, before attending a meeting of the council's planning committee the next day.

Julie Bannon, the manager of the Mount Sorrel Hotel, said: "A residents' meeting was held at the hotel and 14 local people turned up at only a couple of hours notice.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

School's £1,060 to children's hospital

BRYN HAFREN Comprehensive School year-10 pupils presented the Noah's Ark Appeal with a donation of £1,060 at their Assembly on Friday, December 8.

A Noah's Ark spokeswoman said: "This will be used to help build a new swimming pool at the Children's Hospital of Wales."

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WHAT TO DO ABOUT LITTER?

IT is a sad fact that beach litter has more than doubled over the last 15 years – it is swamping our oceans and washing up on our beaches.

It kills wildlife, looks disgusting, is a hazard to our health, and costs millions to clean up!

This litter comes from many human sources: the public, fishing, sewage pipes and shipping – but it is all preventable. Don't you think it's about time you did something about it?

Luckily, there's plenty thqt people can do:

Stop throwing household items down the toilet; if you smoke, do not drop your cigarette butts on the beach; don't let go of your balloons because they don't just disappear but float back to earth. Balloons are particularly dangerous as they are often mistaken for food by marine animals.

Why not join us on one of our monthly beach cleans on Boxing Day at the Knap beach, Barry at 2.30pm?

Coun Rob Curtis, Barry
(Co-ordinator of Friends of Barry beaches)

Volunteers thanked

MAY I take the opportunity of thanking all those people who volunteered to help in the 'Cards for Good Causes' shop at the Community College in Cowbridge this year?

There has been a magnificent response to our request for volunteers and I am truly grateful.

The charities involved will have benefited by many thousands of pounds through the generosity of people giving up their time to serve in the shop. Thank you,

Neville Farthing, Llantwit Major
Volunteer Manager

'Paved area is a danger to residents'

LLANTWIT MAJOR has changed dramatically over the last year – yes, it does look nice, but it is a danger to the older generation and to families with children.

The paved area outside the Co-op, Red Cross, Co-op chemist, and all the way down to Boots chemist and even to the crossing, is botched.

The pathway is uneven, slabs broken, some loose and sticking up, different paved slabs were used, ramps everywhere and a large steep gradient down to the crossing.

This is not acceptable for the residents of Llantwit Major.

With winter fast approaching, it will be like an ice rink down to the crossing.

Come on Vale Council, please sort out this ridiculous mess. Even the bench has been taken away, which was used by the local residents.

Carolyn Risby, St Athan.

True or false?

WITH reference to recent GEM articles and correspondence, I can vaguely remember the incident in Sully camp.

I believe two coloured GIs were accused of rape.

I was only 11 years old, but I was told the two GIs were lynched. True or not?

WJ James, Barry

(See letter from Dr Jonathan Hicks above, right)

THREE 'GOOD SAMARITANS'

AT Mr John O'Gorman's request, I am writing to say thank you to the three gentlemen who so readily and capably came to his aid, when he fell outside the Principality Building Society, in Llantwit Major, last Thursday, December 15.

Thanks also to the First Responder, who appeared on the scene very quickly and remained until the ambulance arrived, giving help and reassurance.

Mr O'Gorman had fractured his femur and is awaiting an operation.

I would like to add my thanks, also, for all the help and reassurance given.

In this season of goodwill, it is gratifying and heartwarming to know that there are still 'Good Samaritans' to be found, especially in Llantwit Major,

Jane Sullivan, Penmark

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Dark cloud of history hanging over Britain?'

BARRY, Wales, and the rest of Britain *(did someone call it 'Great' Britain?)* is a very strange place to live in at the moment.

This area is beautiful, with fine beaches, a nearby airport and stunning countryside.

However, this beauty hides a dark reality,underscored by a report prepared by Peter Evans, Director of Legal Public Protection and Housing Services at the Vale Council.

He predicts that the current radical reform of welfare benefits will lead to a rapid increase in the number of homeless people living in Barry and elsewhere who, he believes, will then have to resort to squatting, crime and disorder, in order to survive.

This from a Coalition government, strong advocates of 'law and order', just like the last disastrous Labour government.

Another report from the Anchor Trust says that 40,000 people a year in Britain need a state–funded funeral because they die "alone and penniless" and end their lives in paupers' graves!

Finally, in the Rhondda, food parcels are being delivered by TV personalities like Coleen Nolan, to impoverished families.

I was born in 1947, under a Labour government which then was socialist and established a welfare state that was meant to look after the "baby boomers" from "cradle to grave" – and not condemn anyone to sub–standard education, health care and a pauper's grave.

This, after 14 years of a Labour government having abandoned its socialist principles under Blair and Brown, and a Coalition putting us further in the mire.

Why am I reminded of pre–war Germany, the Weimar Republic and the rise of the Nazis? I just hope that's not the road down which we are heading.

Christopher Short, Barry,
(Former Labour Party member and parliamentary candidate).

'There were no World War 2 executions of GIs in Barry'

IN response to Christopher Short's letter in last week's GEM, I must point out that he is incorrect in stating that the RWF have always spelt the middle word of the regimental title as 'Welch'.

In the Boer War and throughout the First World War, the Army officially called the regiment 'The Royal Welsh Fusiliers' – but the archaic 'Welch' was officially restored to the regiment's title in 1920, under Army Order No.56.

During those decades, the regiment itself unofficially used the 'Welch' form, but all Army records of men from Barry, for example, serving with the RWF show the official spelling during this period as 'Welsh'.

On his other point, the skeleton that was discovered during post-war building work on the site of the WW2 American Camp near Hayes Road was initially thought to be that of a US soldier; and it appears that the authorities were informed of its discovery, found, as it was, buried near various military debris from the camp left behind after the American troops returned home.

However, bone dating techniques showed that it was from a much earlier century than the Second World War!

This event no doubt gave rise to the tale of two black American soldiers being executed for the crime of rape, which as the US Army records show, is patently untrue.

If readers are interested in the US troops in the area during WW2, may I remind them that the 'Wartime Weekend' being held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the American troops coming to the Vale of Glamorgan will take place over the weekend of June 16-17, 2012 on Barry Waterfront.

Further details can be found at www.barryatwar.

Dr Jonathan Hicks
Barry

'Events must be managed, but are vital for the town'

SOME of the events and parades we have in Cowbridge have received bad press over the last two weeks.

I totally agree that events, such as the reindeer parade, which bring in large numbers of people, have to be managed so that there are no safety issues or traffic chaos.

But the intent of these events is to generate trade and publicity for the town and to give pleasure and enjoyment to many.

In these hard times, local shops and businesses need all the help they can get to survive, for the good of the town, its community and for the preservation of local jobs.

I am grateful to all those who put in hard work and effort to organise all sorts of events that keep our town alive and vibrant – a town where people without cars, the old and not very mobile – and some I know almost blind, can still shop for their daily needs.

These events may very occasionally restrict freedom of movement, but are well advertised, so people can make arrangements around them, or join in the spirit of the event.

Parades and events have been part of Cowbridge history for hundreds of years.

They help the town to survive in hard times, bring enjoyment to many and are part of what makes Cowbridge special.

It has been suggested that they be curtailed and a halt called to any increase.

I just hope we do what is right for the town and its community, in a manner that is safe, so that generations to come can enjoy the spirit of Cowbridge.

Howard Wright, Cowbridge.

LACK OF SOME FESTIVE CHEER

I HAVE to say how utterly miserable Barry Dock town centre looks this Christmas, due to the significant lack of effort from the local traders when it comes to putting up decorations.

I know there's an economic downturn, but this does nothing to encourage me to spend in the town.

It's time to wake up and smell the coffee, folks, if you really mean business!

However, well done and merry Christmas to High Street Traders, Market Street Club and garage, Morrisons, the council, for King Square and, best of all this year in my opinion, The Little Blue deli in Thompson Street.

Sorry to those few that have also put up decorations that I have not yet seen.

(Name and address supplied).

Collection for the greyhounds

THANK you to residents and visitors to Cowbridge, who generously supported Greyhound Welfare at our street collection and Meet the Greyhounds event in Cowbridge on December 3.

The street collection raised a total of £140.08, which will be helpful in meeting vet's fees and kennelling costs, before rescued dogs are found homes.

We are holding a walk with our greyhounds on Barry beach, meeting on the Promenade in Barry at 1pm on New Year's Day. All are welcome to come along!

If you wish to enquire about sharing life with a greyhound, telephone Paula on 01633 892846. For general information, please call 01446 750663.

John Richfield
(volunteer helper), St Athan.

'Street bollards are *not* art'

SO Paul Haley (The GEM, December 8) considers those controversial pieces of mis-shapen metal (*the bollards in Thompson Street*) to be art! To say I beg to differ, is putting it mildly!

I must say I admire his up-beat view of a project making an artistic statement in the town; but to call this result 'art' is stretching the point to a degree.

Certainly, let's put Barry ahead in the enterprise stakes, but relating to some focal point of worth.

The rest of the Vale must be laughing up their sleeves at such a tasteless exhibition in the name of art.

I have a strong feeling that whoever okayed the bollard idea was bedazzled by his/her daring to be different – called by the deluded being modern and up-to-date!

Your intentions are fine, Mr Haley, but sitting on the fence being self-congratulatory won't get results.

Mrs P I Weaver, Barry.

Email your views and/or news to ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk***

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 30)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	03.41	9.0	16.11	9.2
23 Fri	04.44	9.3	17.09	9.4
24 Sat	05.35	9.7	18.02	9.8
25 Sun	06.26	10.2	18.51	9.9
26 Mon	07.14	10.1	19.38	9.9
27 Tues	07.58	10.2	20.19	9.8
28 Wed	08.41	9.9	20.59	9.5
29 Thur	09.19	9.5	21.37	9.1
30 Fri	09.59	9.2	22.15	8.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Homeless decision is delayed



ABOVE: Local residents mounted a protest on the day councillors carried out a site visit of the premises proposed as a new hostel.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She continued: "People want reassurances that their lives will not be impacted by the people who will be housed there."

She explained that people would understand if the occupants were people who had been made homeless or faced domestic abuse; however, they would have serious concerns if there were people with mental health issues, drug or alcohol problems and there was insufficient supervision.

She said: "The council has to decide whether it is the right location for people in need of supervision and help."

Fourteen bedsits are planned at the former RAFA club in Porthkerry Road with supervision from 9am to 5pm.

Coun Janice Charles, who represented residents at the planning meeting, told The GEM: "Statistics prove that the type of people who require homeless accommodation are those who have problems with life, such as mental health issues, alcohol, and drugs – they need specialist help.

"If the people need supervision in the daytime, why don't they need supervision at night?"

Coun Charles said that as Barry's major hotel, the Mount Sorrel Hotel also had legitimate concerns as to whether the hostel could affect custom.

Administrators trying to find a buyer for the hotel, which employs 30 local people, have also expressed their concerns to the council.

Residents insist it is not a case of 'nimbyism' but the need to ensure there are no anti-social problems.

The planning committee deferred the matter until next year. The residents' 'concern group' plans to meet up again in the New Year.

'ACUTE SHORTAGE'

The council's head of planning and transportation, Rob Thomas, said that members of the planning committee had visited the site and benefitted from viewing the property, its location and the proposed layout.

He explained: "At the planning committee last week, the determination was again deferred to enable officers to discuss further issues relating to the scale of the proposal with the applicant. These discussions will now be entered into with a report back to a future planning committee in the new year."

The operational manager for public sector housing, Mike Ingram, added: "We are aware of the proposals and there have been initial discussions with the owner about the future use of the building and its potential use as temporary accommodation for single people for whom the council has statutory housing responsibilities.

"There is an acute shortage of this type of self-contained accommodation which sees many residents rehoused in unsuitable, expensive B&B's with little in the way of adequate facilities and support."

Police hunt man who stole from woman (88)

POLICE are appealing for information following a distraction burglary on Tuesday, December 13, at around 5pm in Coleridge Avenue, Penarth, when a man entered the home of an 88-year-old woman.

He claimed to be from a water company and stated that there was a problem with the local water supply.

He left about 10 minutes later, after taking valuables.

Police have issued an e-fit of the suspect who is described as a white male, aged between 30 and 40 years old, with short dark hair and around 5'3" – 5'5" tall.



E-fit image of the male suspect.

He spoke with an English accent and was wearing a navy blue tracksuit.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake of Barry CID said: "An investigation is under way and I would appeal to anyone who recognises the man depicted in the e-fit to come forward.

"I would also like to ask anyone who may have been approached in similar circumstances to contact the police.

"We don't want to alarm people, but want to make sure that they are alert.

"I would like to remind householders to follow the Police Doorstep Code and not allow any strangers into their homes, and also ask residents to look out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours."

Contact Barry CID on 01446 731606, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Graham's £5,277 for the national Poppy Appeal

POPPY APPEAL stalwarts Graham and Barbara Davies collected £5,277.59 in their final collection at Waitrose Store in Barry.

Over almost a decade, the couple have collected around £45,000 to support Service people in need and their families.

Graham said: "Barbara and I want to thank everyone who has given so generously over the years."

Although keen to continue with the collections, Graham, Barbara and their family decided that with Graham suffering ill-health, it was time for him to put his feet up and enjoy the rest of his retirement!

Early warning system for town residents

A BARRY councillor who brought a recent incident at Dow Corning chemical complex to the attention of the Vale housing and public protection committee is urging residents to sign up to the free informer warning system.

Independent councillor Richard Bertin said it was suggested at the meeting that people should sign up to the automated informer system which would alert them to what is happening at the site.

Coun Bertin said: "I would urge all residents to sign up to this automated alert system."

Coun Bertin can be contacted on 01446 736227; or on 07973-153987.

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Fish Masala (N) £6.50

ROYAL FAVOURITES
Chicken/Lamb Rezala) £6.50
Naga Jaipuri)) £6.10
Tropical Balti £6.50
Garlic Chilli Chicken)) £5.95
Maharaja Bhuna £5.95
Supreme Mango Chicken (N) £6.10
Laal Maas)) £6.10
Chicken Tikka Masala £5.80
Chicken/Lamb Jalfrezi)) £5.80
Chicken/Lamb Pasanda (N) £5.95
Chicken/Lamb Makhani (N) £5.95

MUGHAL DISHES
Mughlai Murgh/Gosht £5.95
Mughlai Garlic Chilli)) £6.25
Mughlai Mossaka (N) £6.75
Mughlai Nizami £6.50
Mughlai Karahi £6.25

BIRYANI DISHES
Royal Special Biryani £7.25
Kachchi Biryani £6.95
Maharaja Biryani (N) £7.50
Chicken/Lamb/Prawn Biryani £5.95
Murgh Tikka Biryani (N) £6.85
King Prawn Biryani £8.50
Sabzi Biryani (V) £4.95

CLAY OVEN GRILLS
Tandoori Murgh (half) £5.75
Chicken/Lamb Tikka £5.75
Garlic Murgh Tikka £5.95
Chicken/Lamb Shashlik £6.85
King Prawn Shashlik £7.95
Mughal Lamb Chops £6.50
Paneer Tikka (V) £5.75
Sizzling Grill Platter £7.95

VEGETARIAN DISHES
Miloni Sabzi Handi (V) £4.50
Sabzi Masala (V) (N) £4.50
Paneer Pasanda (V) (N) £4.50
Sabzi Paneer Jalfrezi (V))) £4.50

SIDE DISHES
Palak Paneer £2.30
Aloo Gobi £2.25
Aloo Palak £2.25
Palak Bhaji £2.25
Aloo Baingan £2.25
Mushroom Bhaji £2.25
Bhendi Bhaji £2.25
Aloo Zeera £2.25
Chana Masala £2.25
Tarka Daal £2.25
Chips £1.50

RICE DISHES
Plain Rice £1.70
Pulao Rice £1.90
Balti Rice £2.60
Machli Pulao £2.75
Saag Pulao £2.35
Lemon Pulao £2.35
Garlic Pulao £2.35
Mughlai Pulao £2.85
Keema Pulao £2.35
Mushroom Pulao £2.35
Special Pulao £2.35

NAN BREADS
Plain Nan £1.70
Tikka Nan £2.00
Peshwari Nan £1.85
Garlic or Cheese Nan £1.85
Keema Nan £1.85
Tandoori Roti £1.50
Paratha £1.95
Chapati £1.00

ALL TIME CLASSICS
Chicken £4.90
Lamb £5.10
Prawn £5.25
King Prawn £7.50
Chicken Tikka £5.70
Vegetable £3.95
Korma, Curry/Madras/Vindaloo, Bhuna, Dupiaza, Rogan, Pathia, Dansak, Saag, Chana, Balti.

) Chilli rating (N) Contains Nuts (V) Vegetarian

In the season of goodwill...

THIEF STEALS 'TIPS BOX' FOR STORE STAFF

POLICE in Rhoose are appealing for information following a mean-spirited theft from the local Spar store on Saturday, December 17.

At around 8.20pm, the staff tip box was taken from the counter of the shop which is on Fontygary Road.

A man dressed in dark clothing, wearing a hood and gloves, went into the store with a scissors and cut the security cords on the tip box before running in the direction of Station Road.The police have launched an investigation into the theft.

The tip box is described as "a Quality Street confectionery tin, wrapped in red and gold patterned paper".

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has any further information should contact PC Phil Davies at Llantwit Major Police Station on 101. Alternatively, people can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Hunt for three men after mystery assault

POLICE in Barry are appealing for information, following an incident at Ruthen Terrace at around 12.45am on Tuesday, December 20.

Three men went to the address and assaulted two female occupants, who suffered leg and arm injuries.

One man was described as stocky, in his mid-30s, wearing a grey beanie hat, a grey hooded top with a zip front and dark tracksuit bottoms.

Another man was also described as stocky.

The third man was of large build, age mid-30s, wearing a light coloured jacket. He wore a distinctive pair of yellow gloves.

The men did not speak with Barry accents.

Both females were taken to the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff for treatment to their injuries, said Detective Sergeant Rob Davidson of Barry CID.

"At this moment, there is no obvious motive for this incident and we are keeping an open mind.

"We would appeal to anyone who may have information, or who saw or heard any suspicious activity in or around Ruthen Terrace at the time of the incident, to come forward.

"It is an unusual incident and an investigation is ongoing to trace whoever was responsible," he added.

• *Contact Barry CID via 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.*

Barry WI looks back and forward

THE usual meetings took place – keep fit, sewing circle, monthly Tuesday afternoon and evening meetings during September to December.

At the AGM, Jane Powell, Women's Institute advisor for the evening, was welcomed.

Jeanette Chilcott, the secretary, presented her annual report; June Davies presented the president's address; and Sandra Jodrell, the treasurer, proposed the acceptance of the annual financial statement.

June Davies was re-elected president.

The November evening meeting was 'Simply Christmas,' where the ladies purchased Christmas gifts, and there was a shopping trip to Ross-on-Wye.

December seems to be an eating month! Sewing circle lunch, keep fit lunch – both took place at the Cherry Tree.

The Tuesday afternoon meeting was a Christingle, where Jean Thomas presented and supplied all the goodies.

On December 14, our Christmas lunch was at the Beechtree. At the Tuesday evening meeting, we have our Christmas party 'bring a plate'.

The sewing circle has been busy knitting snowmen and filling them with sweets to sell for Velindre. Some of the ladies took them to Velindre; in all, we have knitted around 250. **JC**

Barry Island DVD gives £500 boost to children's hospice



Michael hands over the cheque for £500

I WAS recently taken on a tour of the Ty Hafan children's hospice and I presented them with a cheque for £500, the money raised from the 'Barry and The Island' DVDs.

I was very impressed with the facility and the people who work there were very kind. I wish the children and everyone at Ty Hafan a very happy Christmas.

I am chuffed that so many people have purchased the DVD and enjoyed it. I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in the production of the film and everyone who has been involved with the selling of it.

I have met some very kind people from this town, many of whom I now consider friends.

Thank you to everyone at Marco's Cafe, Fun Harbour, Quasar and Costcutter for selling the DVDs, and thank you to Lily Pad films for helping with the production of the film.

MICHAEL JAMES MOORE

Beach litter-pick

BARRY-based Environmental Group Friends of Barry Beaches will meet for a litter pick on Boxing Day at the earlier time of 2.30pm at the Knap Terrace car park.

PUPILS ARE THE STARS

EWENNY Arts Festival held a concert at Ewenny Priory Church to celebrate St Nicholas Day, featuring Holton Primary School, Barry and Llangewydd Junior School, Bridgend.

The concert brought together two county boroughs in friendship with pupils, teachers, parents and friends welcoming a joyous time of year through music.

The beginning was very effective, when the lights were dimmed and the pupils started singing in the monastic end of the priory, coming into the church singing 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter' followed by 'Child in a Manger Born'.Host for the concert, Vale AM Jane Hutt, introduced the schools.

Holton Primary School sang 'Silent Night', with soloists Joshua Tiller, Cherish Garfield, Tianna Williams and Myra Jones, 'Little Star', 'Preseb Bethlehem', and 'Candle in the Window'.

Llangewydd Junior School sang 'To-night', 'Listen to Mary', 'Silent is Lowly' and 'Just another Song'.

Readers from Llangewydd Junior School were Jasmine Davies and Rhian Horton, and the reader from Holton Primary School was Rebecca Stevens.

To bring the evening to a close, both schools appeared again from the monastic end, singing 'Come and join the Celebration'. This earned a standing ovation and Ms Hutt congratulated both schools for their hard work giving a wonderful start to the festive season.

It was the first time the two schools had met and visited the church to sing in concert.

SHAH
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WE NOW DELIVER:
Home delivery available to Barry, Sully, Wenvoe and Rhoose

Four Star ★★★★ Food Hygiene Rating

New Christmas Special Set Meals: only available 22nd Dec - 7th Jan 12

Set Meal No 1 For 2 Persons
2 x Pappadoms
1 x Chicken Samosa
1 x Onion Bhaji
1 x Murghi Bahar (Mild to Medium Chicken with minced meat with exciting spices, onion, garlic, coriander, almonds and a touch of cream)
Chicken/Lamb Madobi (Hot to Medium, cooked in a hot & tangy sauce made with fresh green chilli, coconut and garlic
1 x Daal Sambar
1x Pilau Rice
1 x Plain Nan
only £22.95

Set Meal No 2 For 2 Persons
2 x Pappadoms
1 x Lamb Samosa
1 x Reshmi Chicken
1 x Mouchuck (Mild - Chicken breast marinated with ground nuts, honey, cream and butter)
Chicken/Lamb Gurka (Hot to Medium, Fried chopped onion, green pepper, Tandoori cooked mince in a very strong spicy sauce.
1 x Mixed Veg Bhaji
1x Pilau Rice
1 x Chilli & Garlic Nan
only £22.95

OTHER SET MEALS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR MENU - PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS

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Free Coffee while you wait

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

STARTERS
All starters served with salad and mint sauce and are medium strength unless otherwise stated.
1. Starter for 2 Persons £4.95 (Vegetable samosa, onion bhajee, chicken tikka, lamb tikka)
2. Fish Pattice £2.50 (Slightly spiced tuna fish in golden breadcrumbs and deep fried)
3. Mixed Starters £3.50 (Chicken Tikka, lamb tikka and sheek kebab)
4. Chicken Pattice £2.50 (Shredded pieces of chicken, potato, egg, fresh coriander and an assortment of spices, shaped into delicious patties then deep fried)
5. Subzei Pattice £2.50 (Spicy mixed vegetables covered in golden breadcrumbs and deep fried)
6. Reshmi Chicken £2.50 (Marinated chicken, served with mushrooms and green peppers)
7. Spicy Platter £3.95 (Hot and spicy chicken tikka, lamb tikka and sheek kebab, coated in a honey and soy sauce glaze)
8. Chicken Pakora £2.95 (Crispy succulent spicy chicken)
9. Chicken Chat £2.50 (Chicken cooked in a sour sauce)
10. Aloo Chat (Potato cooked in a sour sauce) £2.25
11. Onion Bhajee £2.25
12. Samosa £2.50 (Spiced meat or vegetables in a crispy pastry)
13. Fish Samosa £2.50 (Spiced salmon in a crispy pastry)
14. Sheek or Shamee Kebab £2.75
15. Chicken or Lamb Tikka £2.50
16. Prawn Cocktail £2.50 (Succulent prawns served in a seafood sauce with salad and lemon)
17. Prawn Puri £2.95 (Prawns cooked in spices and served in a deep fried puri bread)
18. King Prawn Puri £3.95 (King prawns cooked in spices and served in a deep fried puri bread)
19. King Prawn Butterfly £3.95 (King prawns coated in a spicy batter then deep fried)
20. Garlic Mushrooms £2.25

MARINATED DISHES
21. Butter Chicken (Mild) £5.50 (Off-the-bone tandoori chicken cooked with almonds, coconut and butter in a creamy sauce)
22. Chicken or Lamb Pasanda (Mild) £5.50
23. Chicken or Lamb Tikka Masalla £5.50
24. Mixed Tikka Masalla £6.95 (Chicken tikka, lamb tikka and sheek kebab, cooked in a special sauce of cream, yoghurt, herbs and spices)
25. Tandoori King Prawn Masalla £8.95
26. Chicken or Lamb Korahi (Medium) £5.50 (Chicken or lamb marinated in garlic, ginger and coriander, cooked in a richly spiced sauce with green peppers, tomatoes and onions)
27. Jalfrezi Chicken or Lamb (Hot) £5.25
28. King Prawn Korahi £8.95 (King prawn seasoned with a touch of garlic, ginger and coriander, cooked in a richly spiced sauce with green peppers, tomatoes and onions)

SPECIALITIES OF THE HOUSE
29. Aloo Chicken (Hot or Medium) £6.15 (Off-the-bone chicken with spicy diced potato cooked in a rich sauce)
30. Chicken or Lamb Lahore (Hot or Medium) £6.25 (Tender pieces of chicken or lamb tikka grilled over charcoal, cooked in a tandoori sauce with chopped onions, green peppers with a rich sauce)
31. Chicken Pepali (Hot or Medium) £6.25 (Cooked with green peppers, onion, tomatoes and fresh mint)
32. Captain Pathila (Hot or Medium) £6.25 (Tender strips of chicken or lamb, prepared using fresh herbs and spices including coriander, mint, garlic and yoghurt in a rich tangy sauce and this really is an exotic flavoured dish)
33. Lime Chilli Goza (Hot) £6.15 (Diced chicken or lamb cooked with home-made chilli pickles)
34. Jerra Chicken (Hot or Medium) £6.15 (Highly aromatic dish cooked using roast cumin seeds)
35. South Indian Mustard (Hot) £6.25 (Barbequed pieces of chicken cooked with fresh garlic, mustard, chilli sauce and served with crisp red chillies)
36. Chicken or lamb Basanthi (Hot) £6.25 (Slightly hot sauce, cooked with onions, green peppers and fresh green chillies)
37. Mango Chicken (Mild) £6.15 (Marinated chicken cooked in a mild sauce with mango)
38. Garlic Chicken (Hot) £6.25 (A delicious chicken dish served with a combination of fresh spice, lemon juice, garlic and a touch of green chillies)
39. Chicken Moghli Mossaka (Medium) £6.15 (Tandoori strips of chicken, cooked with spicy minced lamb with a touch of masalla sauce)
40. King Prawn Nawabi (Hot or Medium) £8.95 (King prawns roasted in a clay oven, then cooked in a thick spicy sauce, served with stir-fried aubergines, garnished with fresh coriander and saffron onion)
41. Chicken Chilli Masalla)Hot) £6.25 (Prepared with exotic fresh hot spices and green chillies)
42. Shatkora (hot) £6.25 (Spicy chicken or lamb flavoured dish, cooked with shatkora, a fruit from the north eastern region of Bangladesh, giving this dish a true taste of Bangladesh cuisine)
43. Rajastani Chicken £6.50 (A sweet and sour dish of chicken strips, cooked with onions, peppers and green chillies in a rich sauce)

BALTI DISHES
44. House Special Balti £6.25 (Chicken, lamb, potato, spinach in a thick spicy sauce)
45. Chicken or lamb Tikka Spinach Balti £5.95
46. Chicken or Lamb Tikka Balti £5.75
47. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Balti £5.50
48. Chicken or lamb Spinach/Mushroom Balti £5.75
49. Vegetable balti £5.10
50. King Prawn Spinach Balti £8.95
51. King Prawn Balti £8.50

TANDOORI DISHES
52. Tandoori King Prawn £8.95
53. Chicken Nawabi £6.95
54. Tandoori Mixed Grill £8.95 (Quarter tandoori chicken, chicken tikka, lamb tikka, sheek kebab and nan bread served with curry sauce)
55. Chicken or lamb Shashlick £6.95
56. Half Tandoori Chicken £6.95
57. Chicken or Lamb Tikka £5.50

TRADITIONAL DISHES
King Prawn available at £3.50 extra, Tikka Chicken or Lamb at £1.00 extra and vegetables at £1.00 less.
58. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Curry £4.95 (Medium, madras or vindaloo)
59. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Bhuna £5.10
60. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Rogan £5.10
61. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Pathia £5.10
62. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Dhansak £5.10
63. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Dupiaza £5.10
64. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Kurma £5.10

BIRYANI DISHES
65. House Special Biryani £6.50 (A mixture of chicken tikka, lamb tikka, minced lamb, peas and topped with a spicy omelette)
66. Chicken or Lamb Tikka Biryani £5.75
67. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Biryani £5.50
68. King Prawn Biryani £8.50
69. Vegetable Biryani £5.10
70. Mushroom and Egg Biryani £5.10

SIDE DISHES
All medium hot unless otherwise stated.
71. Sag Mirch (Green peppers with spinach) £2.50
72. Motor Ponir (Peas & home-made cottage cheese) £2.50
73. Sag Ponir (Spinach & home-made cottage cheese) £2.50
74. Mushroom Bhajee £2.25
75. Chana Masalla (Chick Peas) £2.25
76. Aubergine Bhajee £2.25
77. Aloo Gobi (Potatoes & Cauliflower) £2.50
78. Bombay Aloo £2.25
79. Cauliflower Bhajee £2.25
80. Sag Aloo (Spinach & Potatoes) £2.25
81. Sag Bhajee (Spinach) £2.25
82. Aloo Bhindi Bhajee (Potatoes & Okra) £2.50
83. Bhindi Bhajee £2.25
84. Tarka Dall (Lentil in fried garlic) £2.25

RICE & BREAD
85. Boiled Rice £1.75
86. Pilau Rice £1.95
87. Keema Rice £2.25
88. Mushroom Rice £2.25
89. Special Rice £2.25
90. Fried Rice £2.25
91. Egg Fried Rice £2.25
92. Garlic Fried Rice £2.25
93. Lemon Rice £2.25
94. Plain Nan £1.75
95. Keema Nan £1.95
96. Peshwari Nan £1.95
97. Special Nan (Chicken tikka) £2.25
98. Kilcha Nan (Vegetables) £1.95
99. Garlic Nan £1.95
100. Chilli Garlic Nan £1.95
101. Chilli Keema Nan £1.95
102. Cheese Nan £2.25
103. Chips £1.50
104. Paratha £1.95
105. Chapati £1.50
106. Stiffed Paratha £2.25
107. Tandoori Roti £1.95
108. Pappadam £0.60
109. Spicy Pappadam £0.60
110. Chutney Tray £1.00
111. Pickles £0.40
112. Red Sauce £0.40
113. Chips & Curry Sauce £2.95
114. Chips & Korma/Masalla Sauce £3.50

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY AND BOXING DAY ONLY

DRIVING TEST CENTRE RETURNS TO BARRY

A NEW driving test centre has opened in Barry – and one of the first successes was an Ysgol Bro Morgannwg pupil!

Rhian Whittington (17) passed her test in one of the first sessions and was congratulated by Vale MP, Alun Cairns, and Road Safety Minister, Mike Penning.

The trial in Barry is part of a scheme which offers car tests in selected areas across Wales, England and Scotland that do not currently have a local test centre, but have a significant demand for tests.

Hotels, leisure centres, and local authority buildings – as is the case in Barry – will be used.

The former test centre in Barry, which was located on Dock View Road, closed in March 2010 and there have been regular calls for driving tests to return to the town.

Local driving instructors complained there were higher costs for both them and their clients because they were having to make longer journeys into the test centre in Cardiff.

Barry is the first of the new centres to be opened and it is located at the Business Support Centre in Hood Road.

Local MP Alun Cairns said:

"This is great news for local people and for learner drivers from across the Vale who have not been able to sit their driving test in their own community for many months. The new test centre in Barry will provide significant savings for local people and a welcome boost to local instructors."



Pictured left to right: Alun Cairns MP, Coun Rhodri Traherne, Mike Penning MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport and Rhian Whittington, who was one of the first 'test' successes at the new centre!

The Vale's AM Jane Hutt said the arrival of the centre would be an encouragement for local people learning to drive.

"This is good news for Barry, providing driving test facilities once again in the heart of our town and also benefitting surrounding areas in the Vale.

"The closure of the former centre was a big blow for Barry causing great difficulties for instructors and learners in accessing the Cardiff centre in Fairwater but the re-opening is a great boost to celebrate at the end of 2011!"

Road Safety Minister Mike Penning said: "I am delighted that driving tests will be returning to Barry.

"Our aim is to offer a local service that is convenient for candidates as well as being cost effective."

Rhoose Point residents want to band together

RESIDENTS in Rhoose Point are to test if the success of a Facebook page will translate into enthusiasm for a new residents' association.

An open meeting for the new association, to be known as 'Respect Rhoose Point, has been called after more than 90 members joined its facebook group.

Spokesman Paul Humphry told The GEM: "We are looking for volunteers to join a committee and act as a real voice for the residents on all issues affecting the Point, and Rhoose itself."

The meeting will take place at the Celtic Way Community Centre on Sunday, January 8, at 5pm.

Mr Humphry said that with a planning application to be heard in January 2012 for further housing – understood to be for around 350 homes – the residents still have "very real concerns" on a number of issues affecting the current development.

He said: "Despite the recent adoption of the highways, there are still a number of key issues affecting residents that the association feels many Rhoose Point residents are unaware of.

"Another key aim of the new association will be to promote community spirit and organise activities such as beach clearing, fundraising and Neighbourhood watch."

He concluded: "It is an open association and all Rhoose Point residents are welcome to put themselves up for the committee.

"As with all groups of this nature we need numbers to give us a real voice within the Vale.

"Please come along and support this venture," he requested.

Santa helps to boost PTA's fayre

FATHER Christmas popped in to chat to children at his grotto in Sully school last week.

A Jolly Jar stall sold out of small gifts and chocolates, which the children had made themselves, wrapped up and decorated. They were entertained by games that year–6 had designed and enjoyed visiting stalls operated by their teachers and learning support assistants.

The Sully School Christmas fayre was organised by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to raise funds for the school.

Chris Fletcher, PTA chairman, reported: "The Christmas fayre was a huge success, raising £1,677 for the school.

"I'd like to thank the headteacher, Mrs Hart, all the teachers, all the staff and parents for supporting this event – which is a highlight of the school's calendar.

"The hall was very full, as usual, and everyone had a good time."

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ESTABLISHED OVER 40 YEARS
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THE BEST HOMEMADE CHICKEN CURRY WITH RICE & CHIPS
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Season's greetings for a peaceful Christmas and New Year

Amid the gloom, hope and opportunity for Wales

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

OVER the past year, there has been much cause for optimism – despite the uncertain and troubling times we live in.

That is my experience as your Assembly Member and in my ministerial role in the Welsh Government.

The ending of the year provides an opportunity to reflect on these times we live in and consider how we can respond most effectively as we face the challenges of 2012.

At a national level, we have seen the worsening economic situation deepening over the past 10 months to the point where we have the highest unemployment figures for 17 years with youth unemployment rising over one million.

As a Welsh Government, we have sought to mitigate this with the launch of our Skills Growth Wales programme for 16 - 25 year olds – providing employment, training and wages for 4,000 young people each year over the next three years. We are also expanding our Young Recruits programme to increase apprenticeships for 1,800 more young people over the next 18 months.

Yes, we chose to spend money on our young people, as well as building more affordable homes, putting money into maintenance of our schools and into Skills Growth Wales – which backs employers who take on redundant workers, rather than allocating that money for a council tax freeze.

That was a decision backed by three political parties in the Assembly, who supported the Welsh Government's view that we needed to do everything we could to boost the Welsh economy.

Over the past month, we have allocated a further £170 million on capital and revenue projects in education, housing, health and energy efficiency.

The Education Minister has announced a £1.4bn 21st Century schools building programme and a national transport plan includes funding decisions which will benefit the Vale of Glamorgan.

This is all good news for our businesses, our communities, our young people and families.

The second phase of the Children's Hospital at UHW is being funded by the Welsh Government, as well as the new elderly mentally infirm unit at Llandough Hospital.

All funding decisions we make are assessed for the impact they may have on the creation of jobs and the community benefits we can derive from contracts.

Closer to home, funds have been raised by trustees of the inspiring new Ty Hapus Centre at the former Towers Surgery in Holton Road – to provide fantastic new facilities for people with onset dementia in Barry and the wide Vale community.

These developments offer hope and opportunity for some of our most vulnerable family members.

In December, our Welsh Government Budget was passed with a financial uplift for our schools who will benefit from additional funding, according to the number of pupils eligible for free school meals, to assist the investment in their educational attainment to help counteract deprivation. This funding will come direct to schools.

Eligibility for free school meals is increasing with the financial pressures families are facing.

Backed by our free school breakfast scheme, which is provided in many primary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, these initiatives funded by the Welsh Government are designed to give our children the best start in life, with targeted funding for the most disadvantaged.

The expansion of Flying Start to double the provision of the past four years, will provide free childcare for two-year-olds and parenting support for the children and families who need that most.

As your Assembly Member, there has been good news as well as disappointments in the past year. The new Driving Test Centre at the BSC in Barry is great news for learners and their instructors, but the closure of the Barry Magistrates Court is a senseless act of false economy by the UK Government depriving Barry of it's local seat of justice.

The opposition to the closure was strongly fought bringing together your elected representatives and the Vale of Glamorgan Council in support of the local Bench of Magistrates and partners such as Atal y Fro supporting the Domestic Violence Court.

The regeneration of Barry continues apace with an expanded Board, including private, voluntary and public sector partners with funding from the Welsh Government.

The renewal of Castleland housing and the re-development of the Castleland Community Centre by the Drop-in Centre, provide an uplift for the heart of Barry.

The future prospects for the Pump House and Barry Island are now being considered; Thompson Street has been upgraded; the feasibility for re-developing Gibbonsdown Children's Centre is under way; new state-of-the-art playgrounds are being enjoyed by children across Barry.

The Rural Development Plan will also bring investment to our rural villages and towns, benefiting the farming community, community food-growing, tourism and local businesses, as well as opening up our county for further opportunities, with walking and cycling linked to the rich heritage of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Partners must also come together to place Valeways on a firm and sustainable basis to support the unique voluntary organisation, which has opened up walking for the benefit of all in the Vale.

That is a challenge for 2012 which I will continue to pursue.

The re-opening of Wick Village Shop and Post Office is great news for the western Vale. Small and micro businesses continue to develop across the Vale.

There are new opportunities for the announcement by the Business Minister, Edwina Hart, that St Athan will be designated an Enterprise Zone linked to Cardiff Airport for the aerospace industry.

We must ensure that this leads to new jobs and prospects in 2012, after the disappointments of the cancellation of the St Athan MoD project.

I visited Scotland recently to meet with Ministers to discuss our plans and levers for making a difference for our economy and public services and learn from each other.

I have launched a Wales infrastructure investment plan and we are negotiating a fairer funding deal with the UK Government, with meetings planned for early January. We are supporting local government with a better financial settlement than any other Government in the UK and we will be helping local authorities finance their capital projects over the coming years, starting with highway improvements and moving on to the 21st Century schools programme.

So I leave you with a message of peace and hope for Christmas and the New Year, with many challenges for the way we can manage our economy and services in Wales.

We will have to share what we have in our communities, to meet rising needs, to bring hope to young people and the vulnerable.

When I see the determination of people and businesses in all walks of life to face up to these challenges I feel even more determined to serve you in 2012 to the best of my ability, in my roles as your Assembly Member and Finance Minister for Wales.

A WARM WELCOME FOR CONTINENTAL VISITORS



LEFT:
A group of teachers from Turkey, Sweden, Greece and Germany visited Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig, as part of the Comenius project.

The visitors spent time with teachers and pupils at the school, and were also given a tour of Barry and the surrounding areas.

They are pictured here along with the Deputy Mayor of the Vale, Coun Katherine Kemp, and Heledd Gruffudd of Sant Curig, on a tour of the yayoral parlour and town library.

Employees given 'Smart' reward for safety record



ABOVE: Trying out the SmartWater kit – members of the Lafarge Cement UK Aberthaw Works team, from left to right: Isaac Njoroge (manufacturing manager); Andy Harding (production operations coach); and David Morrison (laboratory supervisor).

LAFARGE Cement UK's Aberthaw Works is rounding off the end of 2011 by celebrating a major safety milestone – the team has achieved three years without a 'lost time injury'.

A lost time injury is an incident which entails an employee or contractor taking time off work.

Aberthaw Works manager, James Kirkpatrick says:

"In a heavy industry like cement manufacture it is exceptional to go for such a long period without a significant injury and this success is entirely down to the commitment of the whole team at Aberthaw.

"No matter what role they play in the operation, everyone in their own way has contributed to making the plant one of the safest cement works in the country."

For achieving the milestone, the company gave every member of staff a 'SmartWater' home security kit which enables employees to mark up valuables and prove ownership if they are stolen.

Church fayre hands proceeds to charity

IT was all hands to the pumps, (*or rather to the stalls*) for the annual fayre organised by St Peter's Church, Dinas Powys.

All proceeds are presented to charity, a generous move in these difficult times.

In addition to the expected stalls, there were a Fairtrade shop selling quality chocolate, biscuits and Christmas treats. Sue Hamer worked hard serving customers.

Fairtrade is about creating opportunities for producers in the developing world to receive a fair price for their goods and to work their way out of poverty. It is an opportunity for them to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

The lucky dip organised by St Peter's Craft Group was staffed by Michelle Richards.

Coun Chris Williams toured the fayre and expressed his appreciation for the voluntary work of the church members. He said: "As chairman of the Dinas Powys Community Council, I congratulate the dedication of the helpers. Many people have given up a busy Saturday to lend a hand here today."

Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern was also present, explaining to busy shoppers the services available from the charity. Mrs. Barbara Daniels staffed the information stand. The elderly and vulnerable are key concerns of the charity.

A name the cockerel competition was organised by Judy Watts and Lauren Burns. The cockerel was, of course, Angus – well known in the community! CF



Coun Chris Williams meets volunteers at the annual fayre in St Peter's Church, Dinas Powys.

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Lucy hits top note

LUCY KELLER, from Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, gained the highest marks out of all candidates in who sat the WJEC A–Level in music in Wales and England.

She is to receive a certificate and a cash prize of £50 to mark the occasion, together with a personal letter from Gareth Pierce, WJEC's chief executive, congratulating her on her achievement.

Unique help centre for dementia is launched in Barry



Coun Bronwen Brooks, Mayor of Barry, was present to officially launch the new centre for people with dementia in the town.

TY Hapus Foundation and Alzheimer's Society, with the support of Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, and the Mayor of Barry, Coun Bronwen Brooks, officially launched a new centre for people with dementia in Barry, on December 12.

The innovative centre will provide specialist services for younger people for dementia (under 65) as well as information and support for older people with the condition.

A spokeswoman said that Ty Hapus Foundation and Alzheimer's Society have been working in partnership to develop the project.

As well as offering daily respite services for people with early onset dementia, Ty Hapus centre also has a café where information, support and activities will be provided to people with dementia of all ages. Day trips, arts and crafts, cooking, music and singing, photography or therapy are some of the services that Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers will provide at Ty Hapus.

Justine Pickering, whose mother was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's when she was 55, founded Ty Hapus with the aim of raising funds to set up the centre and provide younger people with dementia with specialist services.

She commented: "Ty Hapus will offer dignified and age-appropriate care for people with dementia in a very stimulating atmosphere. It is unique, because it will provide specialist services for people with early onset of dementia and their carers.

"As a mother with four young children, I am only too aware of the devastating toll dementia wreaks on families – and that care has to be given, not only to people with dementia, but also to those caring for them."

Local author's visit to St Cyres School

Local author, Cathy Farr, recently visited year-7 pupils at St Cyres School with Finn, her Irish wolfhound.

The pupils were full of anticipation about the visit after learning about Finn – the inspiration for her first novel.

Pupils excitedly congregated in the school's learning resources centre and were not disappointed when Cathy and Finn made their entrance.

Finn stands three feet high at the shoulder and nine feet long nose to tail!



LEFT: Cathy Farr

After the initial excitement Cathy read extracts from her novel *Moon Chase*, a fantasy story of the 'Fellhounds of Thesk' and explained how Finn played his part in the creation of the story.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to ask questions of the author.

Pupils quizzed Cathy about becoming a writer, about creative writing and, of course, there were plenty of questions about Finn too!

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit and '*Moon Chase*' is in high demand in the school library.

Cadoxton youth team are top fundraisers

WHAT a year it has been for Cadoxton Youth Project and its ongoing fundraising: Rita Limbrick (head of the community) and the CYP team donated £300 to BBC Children in Need.

Victoria Park in Cadoxton held a fun day, run by Cadoxton Youth Project and here was a cake decorating and a drawing competition for the children.

Prizes were handed out by Jane Hutt AM, who also presented a £300 cheque to Ty Hafan's Mrs Diane Stringer; £250 to Y-Care International, YMCA England, East Africa Drought Appeal, received by Mr Robert Limbrick.

Ms Hutt received the donation of £450 for the tall Ship Trust, which will send a local youth on the trip of a lifetime.

The funds were raised by the CYP team.

Other events were a Christmas dinner in Cadoxton Methodist Church, and the Toy and Train Fair at Barry Leisure Centre.

In the last three weeks, the Cadoxton Youth Project donated £1,300, and they are still fundraising.

Contact Rita or Graham, on 01446 722979, for further information about the project.



Read your Barry GEM online - just visit *www.barry-today.co.uk* and register for free!





Rotarians and the Inner Wheel join carol service



RIGHT: Oh come all ye faithful!

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Barry and Inner Wheel came together on the evening of December 14 for a carol service with the residents of Orchard House, off Colcot Road, Barry.

Rotary Club president Mr Dave Ball welcomed everyone on such a cold, wet and windy evening!

Spirits were soon lifted after the opening carol, 'O Come All Ye Faithful,' which was followed with a humorous reading by Inner Wheel Secretary Margaret Eskins of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.'

Pianist for the evening was Rotarian Meirion Evans. Other carols included 'Once in Royal David's City', 'It came Upon the Midnight Clear' and 'O Little Town of Bethlehem.'

These were interspersed by Rotary president nominee Derek Wolfe reading, 'This is God's Christmas Greeting'; Inner Wheel president Eryl Evans reading 'Christmas' by former Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman; and Rotary president Dave Ball reading from the New Testament.

After the final carol, 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing,' president Dave Ball wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sherry, mince pies and home made cakes were then enjoyed by residents and guests alike.

J.O.

Vale to the fore at the Fecamp Christmas fayre!

THE Vale was represented at the 'Fete de Noel' in Fecamp, Normandy earlier this month by members of the Twinning Association.

The Christmas market has stalls for all towns twinned with the Vale, with their friendship associations offering typical local products.

The Rheinfelden Freundenkreis stall was loaded with Black Forest hams and sausage, stollen cakes and bottles of schnapps.

The Belgians from Mouscron did a brisk trade in chocolates and the famous Belgian beers. Our Fecamp friends were selling sweets, toys and jams.

They also sold specially imported Christmas crackers; apparently crackers are not usually available in France.

The Vale stall displayed a wide selection of Welsh beers from Brains, Felinfoel, Otleys of Pontypridd, and ciders from Gwyny-y-ddraig. Freshly-made Welsh cakes from the hands of vice-chairman were particularly popular.

We also sold Welsh cheeses. The specialist Fromagerie in Fecamp purchased four whole "wheels" of Perl Las from Cenarth.

The fair ended with all associations sitting down together to enjoy a friendship dinner.

Anyone who would like to join the association is welcome to contact Mark Petherick, Town-twinning officer in the Vale of Glamorgan Council offices.

RODNEY INGRAM

Council catering staff celebrate!

CATERING staff from the Vale Council came together to celebrate gaining qualifications in hospitality and catering.

The workers assembled at Barry's Civic Centre to receive their NVQ certificates, in recognition of their hard work.

Council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp and cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, Coun Anthony Hampton presented the certificates.

Coun Kemp told the staff: "You've all worked very hard for this and while doing your day job. It's always more difficult than being a full time student."

From Peterston-Super-Ely to Sully, cooks and kitchen assistants took part in a seven-month, work-based programme to gain their qualifications, co-ordinated by Cardiff and the Vale College.

Joanne Hobbs, 46, a cook for 30 years at Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Penarth, walked away with an NVQ level 2; the first qualification she has ever achieved.

The mum-of-two, from Penarth, said: "When I found out I'd achieved it, I hugged my assessor. I'm so excited. I've never done anything like this before."

Samantha Mathews, 41, from Penarth, has worked as a cook at Ysgol Pen Y Garth, Penarth for the past 13 years.

The married mother of three, who was also collecting her NVQ level 2, has found the training course has helped her realise what she's capable of and renewed her enthusiasm for her job.

Sam recently organised a competition to encourage children to design a healthy eating menu and arranged for the Vale's healthy eating mascot, Healthy Harry, to visit the school, as a way of reinforcing positive messages about food.

She said: "For me, it's all about the children. If they're happy, then so am I. Getting this qualification has made me want to do more training.

"Everybody thinks they know their job inside out if they've been doing it for years, but the trainers helped us realise just how much we do every day."



Catering standards continue to soar in the Vale.

'Don't drink and drive!'

take a taxi instead

WITH the Christmas party season now under way, a Vale councillor has urged people in the area not to drink and drive.

Coun Gwyn John said that although there was a legal limit, he believed that people should not have an alcoholic drink and get behind the wheel.

He explained: "It is cheaper to hire a taxi than pay a fine and have a ban. If you had a serious accident you could go to jail for years."

The legal alcohol limit for drivers in Britain is 35 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath, 80 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, or 107 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine.

However, tolerance to alcohol depends on a number of factors such as weight, age, gender and recent food consumption, and research shows that any alcohol can have some effect on driving judgement.

Last year, 14 per cent of road fatalities were caused by drink driving.

Coun John said: "Sometimes people are tempted to have a pint on the way home. They may have had a long day, be tired and have not eaten much.

"If they have an accident afterwards – even if it wasn't their fault – the consequences because they were drinking can be very serious."

He said that a few years ago a local pedestrian lost his life on Boxing Day due to the actions of a drink driver.

Coun John said he was organising a social occasion in the village of Sigingstone, but people would not be driving there.

"We have arranged for two minibuses, and will order taxis if necessary.

"If people are going out for the evening and they go in a taxi together, it can be as little as £5 each."

Family trio catch the festive mood!

DINAS POWYS WI NEWS

SEVENTY members and WI advisors from Glamorgan Federation, including Culverhouse Cross, Wenvoe, Penarth and Penarth Light, arrived to a warm welcome in the Lee Hall.

The hall was arranged with small tables, each with a sparkling light and festive decorations and a Christmas tree surrounded with raffle prizes.

Guests and members were welcomed by the president, Diana Hodgson, and were offered a warming glass of mulled wine with nibbles. Business was brief, and the evening got off to an excellent start with entertainment by a family group of three: Mary, her son Luke and daughter Maria. We were enthralled, listening to a selection of popular songs and Christmas music. This set the tone for the rest of the evening.

An interval followed, during which the guests enjoyed a buffet with the usual festive fare, including mince pies and a Christmas cake baked by Susan Neale, which had been prepared by the committee.

On each table there was a picture quiz, with photographs of the committee at the ages of three to four years old. Only one table managed to recognise seven members – how we have changed!

The overall winner of the monthly competition, Anne Fowler, was presented with a silver spoon, and a bottle of wine given to the mini bus driver. The evening ended with a selection of carols.

A number of our members went to Brangwyn Hall to The Federation carol concert on December 5 and we are joining with our Link group on December 12 for our local celebration.

Our January meeting takes place on Tuesday, January 3, when we will be entertained and questioned on 'Who killed Dixon of Dock Green', by an ex-member of the police.

You are welcome to come and join us at 7 30 pm in the Lee Hall, and the competition will be a piece of police memorabilia.

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Tuesday 27th December 2011	11.00am - 4.00pm
Wednesday 28th December until Friday 30th December 2011	9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 31st December 2011	9.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 1st & Monday 2nd January 2012	CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd January 2012	11.00am - 4.00pm
Wednesday 4th January until Saturday 7th January 2012	9.00am - 5.30pm
Sunday 8th January 2012	CLOSED

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'Difficult decisions will be worth it in the long run'



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

AS I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year, I want to use this opportunity to look back at the year that has passed and forward to the year ahead.

The economy has dominated the news headlines and I have no doubt will continue to do so over the coming 12 months.

Growth slowed at the outset, but I was pleased to see that the last quarter picked up strongly.

It is unfortunate that our economic development over the short term will depend on the success of the Eurozone area in resolving its debt and economic difficulties. It accounts for 60 per cent of our exports.

Whilst other EU nations are facing a review of their credit ratings, the UK had its AAA rating confirmed. Our debt levels mean that we are still paying £120m a day in interest, but at least international authorities accept that we are on the right track.

Locally, St Athan was again a major part of our interest. It started with a cancellation of the PFI Metrix defence academy.

This was initially disappointing news, until the MoD confirmed its plans to expand the Special Forces on site.

This would mean that all activities would remain within the wire, but there would also be a significant number of military personnel again on the former RAF base.

I am optimistic that the new year will bring confirmation of further activities on site.

The UK government also promoted Enterprise Zones to help boost economic growth and I was pleased that St Athan has been nominated to be a centre of aerospace excellence.

I am hoping that we can press the Welsh Government in the new year to extend the area to include Barry.

The summer brought riots and looting to many English cities. This was disgraceful behaviour, which led to the courts responding with many of the stiffest sentences for such offences.

Although the troubles didn't affect us here in the Vale, some of our local police officers went to support their colleagues in south London.

I was particularly proud to see them in action when I was able to visit and thank them in Peckham.

'Shale gas' was also a new concept to us locally and, to the credit of Vale Says No and the support of the planning committee, the risks were rejected.

We need to be geared up for further risks from the Welsh Government on this in the new year.

In terms of legislation, we witnessed the new Armed Forces Act, introducing the Military Covenant into law for the first time; the Localism Act, which extends significant powers to communities, over the heads of local authorities; the Health and Social Care Bill, which will enable us to draw better value out of health investment; the Education Act, which established hundreds of Free Schools; a Public Bodies Act that paves the way to wind up many quangos and allowed us to protect S4C's budget – to name but a few.

For the new year, we have already started the Youth Employment Bill, enhancing opportunities for the young unemployed and the Metal Theft (Prevention) Bill regulating the dealing in scrap metal.

The year ended with Europe playing centre stage. It was a historic moment. Not even Margaret Thatcher used the EU veto in such a way.

The Prime Minister did exactly what he said and without the guarantees he was looking for, he vetoed EU Treaty changes to safeguard Britain's interest.

The future holds banking reforms, economic stimulus and a new Queen's Speech. Much remains to do.

I am optimistic about the legislative changes, the economic stimulus and our prospects ahead.

The difficult decisions will be worth it over the long run.

I hope you are able to enjoy the festive season and wish you a happy and successful new year.

Marie Curie coffee morning provides a home for Henry!

EARLY in December, 'Joanne's Coffee Morning' was held in Illtyds 216 and as in previous years, it was in aid of the Marie Curie charity.

It was a great success – again – and more than £300 was raised. I would like to thank all who kindly came at such a busy time of year and gave so generously.

We were entertained by Brian Gunton, a wonderful magician, who gave us his precious time. He, too, is a big Marie Curie supporter.

Thanks also to George and his staff, who kept our coffee cups topped up all morning.

Heather Parsons donated a lonely, homeless and nameless Teddy Bear. We raffled him.

I'm pleased to tell you his name is now Henry and his new cosy home is with the raffle winner, Trish Bennett.

Roz Couzens



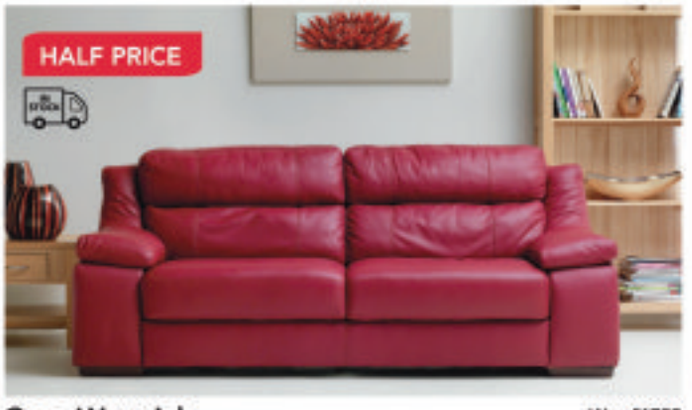
LEFT: Trisha Bennett (left) with Roz Couzens holding the raffle prize Henry.

Photo by **EILEEN BENNETT**

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Tactics are paying off

CRIME committed by young people in the Vale is bucking the national trend, according to a recent report.

The Youth Offending Service has reported to its management board that 75 per cent fewer young people are entering the criminal justice system for the first time.

Bev Noon, manager of the Vale's Youth Offending Service, said: "Not only is crime significantly lower than it was, but fewer young people are having their lives and future careers ruined because of a criminal record.

"The report also shows that reoffending by young people already caught up in the youth justice system is down."

'THIS IS YOUR LIFE' as teacher Liz says *au revoir* to school after 21 years

THE last week of term at All Saints Primary School was a week of celebration tinged with sadness as teacher, Mrs Elizabeth Martin (Liz) retired from teaching after 21 years at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School and a teaching career which spanned four decades in Barry schools.

Liz has taught two generations of pupils and is much loved by children, parents, staff and governors alike. On the Tuesday, she fulfilled her popular role as Santa's Little Helper and on Wednesday, she enjoyed the Christmas parties at the school.

On Thursday, after a wonderful Christingle Eucharist performed by Miss McIntosh's Year–1 pupils, there was a presentation ceremony, where she was completely surprised and delighted when family members and past colleagues from her previous schools attended.

Chairman of the governors, Father Adrian Berry, presented Liz with a beautiful bouquet on behalf of governors past and present and Headteacher Richard Ware presented her with a lovely gold and pearl pendant from the pupils and a beautiful gold bracelet from her colleagues.

Liz gave an emotional speech of thanks and promised to maintain close links with the school.

On Friday, when the pupils had left after showering her with individual gifts, cards and good wishes, Liz attended an end of term party at school where another surprise awaited.

Past pupil and now a teacher at the school, James Ball, gave a hilarious '*This is Your Life at School*' PowerPoint presentation from her early school days to the present day.

Headteacher Richard Ware said: "Mrs Martin has taught all age groups during her 21 years at All Saints. She has been a wonderful teacher and an invaluable member of staff. She will be greatly missed by governors, staff and pupils alike. She deserves a long and happy retirement and we thank her for all her hard work over the years."

Liz commented: "I have been overwhelmed by the fantastic send off I have received and the warm wishes of everyone. All Saints will always be a special place for me.

"I will miss it greatly, but I look forward to spending more time with my family."



Liz Martin with two former pupils who are now staff members.



Pupils join Mrs Martin for a school party to mark her retirement after 21 years of service.

CHARITY EVENING FOR TY HAFAN AT DINAS POWYS



The organising committee including Ceri Jones Iris Cobb, Jane Lewis, Rhys Davies, Elinor Elias Jones, Gethin Lewis, Mags Marries and Haydn Morgan.

TY HAFAN hospice was the chosen charity for the Dinas Powys Welsh Society oncert this year.

The Parish Hall was filled with supporters, who enjoyed a first class night of entertainment. The Plough Singers from Whitchurch provided a varied range of songs which included 'You've got a friend in me, 'California Dreaming' and 'Something in the way she moves'.

A hilarious rendition of a Gilbert and Sullivan item, 'We run them in', complete with comic police helmets and truncheons, was much appreciated by the audience.

Not content with great entertainment, the guests were provided with a delicious meal. Ceri Jones was the master of ceremonies, fully backed up by a team of helpers, including Iris Cobb, Jane Lewis, Rhys Davies, Elinor Elias Jones, Gethin Lewis, Mags Harries and Haydn Morgan.

The bar was ably staffed by John Lewis and Gerald Cobb.

The Noson Elusennol, or charity evening, is a regular feature in the life of the Dinas Powys Welsh Society. **CF**



Toddle Waddle youngsters raised £300 for Barnardo's

MARY Bird of Barnado's Cymru was presented with a cheque for £300 by staff and children of St Aubin Nursery, Cowbridge, following their recent Toddle Waddle.

Children from six weeks to five years took part in the event when they donned animal-themed costumes and toddled their way around Cowbridge.

Lucy Brazier-Evans, Welsh manager of the nursery, said: "It was a fabulous event, which we hope to continue supporting in the future and a great time was had by all!

"We are thrilled and delighted to have raised such a large amount for such a good cause.

"I would like to thank staff, parents, children and the people of Cowbridge for their continued support."



Staff and children at the nursery



PCSO Surinder Singh Taak and staff of building firm NG Reynolds Ltd get to work on the garden.

POLICE AND LOCAL TRADERS CLEAR GARDEN TO HELP PENARTH WOMAN

A MEMBER of the Penarth Neighbourhood Policing Team donned his gardening gloves to help an elderly victim of crime.

PCSO Surinder Singh Taak and local building firm NG Reynolds Ltd recently volunteered their time to clear the gardens of an elderly, vulnerable person who has been a repeat victim of rogue traders and distraction burglaries.

Local Neighbourhood Sergeant Paul Francis said: "This act of kindness now means that this person's garden is no longer overgrown and the property can be clearly seen from the street, allowing a clear view for the neighbours and my officers while they are patrolling."

He added: "It is important that we all take responsibility for our elderly and vulnerable family, neighbours and friends, because victims of this type of crime are often too scared or embarrassed to ask for help and the criminals who target them would 'think twice' if they felt that the person had a good support network."

Sector Inspector Mark Taylor added: "If you live alone, please don't be afraid to ask your neighbours, friends or family for help and remember, when considering whether or not to allow someone into your property, if there is any doubt in your mind, keep them out!"

For crime prevention advice, log onto www.doorstepcallers.co.uk or contact the local Neighbourhood Policing Team on 02920 527360.

To report this type of crime, call 101 but in an emergency, always dial 999.

Basic essentials for all elderly patients

A St Nicholas company has again delivered a donation to Llandough Hospital's East Seven ward for the elderly, so that patients rushed in over Christmas will have some basic essentials.

Angel's Care Services clients and staff collected toothbrushes and toothpaste, sponges, flannels, shower gel and combs for the Christmas hampers.

Doctors and nurses received the donation from managing director Norrie Wilson and accounts administrator Rhiannon Lydon.

Sister Jacqui Warrington, from Llandough's East Seven ward, said: "We would like to say a big thank you to Angels again. For these people at this time of year, who don't have any family to call on, this donation is a huge help."

Mr Wilson said: "Hospital is not the best place to be at Christmas and we just like to try and give a little bit back to patients and to Llandough.

"We care for the elderly day in and day out in their own homes, so we understand how often they can run out of essentials."



ABOVE:
Angel's Care Services staff with some of the gifts donated to Llandough Hospital's East Severn ward.

Ancient and modern, *an ideal Christmas mix!*

ST DAVID'S C/W Primary School, Colwinston, had a busy and festive couple of weeks before the end of term.

The Christmas fayre was held at the beginning of December with stalls selling books, cosmetics, trinkets, plants, crafts – many of which were produced by the local community.

The Friends of St David's provided refreshments, as well as selling school calendars and eco-friendly jute and cotton bags with the school logo.

Colwinston preschool were busy offering biscuit decorating and Kids Club were offering face painting and a tombola.

The school choir entertained the crowds by singing carols.

The following week, the children were entertaining again during the Christmas concert – 'A Slice of Christmas Mix' – a fusion of traditional and contemporary songs and the audience clearly loved the show, which got everyone in the Christmas spirit!

The Friends of St David's finished off the evening by offering mulled wine and mince pies. Once again a big thanks to all the teachers, parents, friends, local community and (most of all) the children. **CH**

Appeal is a great success

MORE than 3,600 gift-filled shoeboxes from across Cardiff, south Glamorgan and the Vale are heading for vulnerable children in Belarus, Kosovo, Romania and Serbia as part of Operation Christmas Child, one of the UK's largest annual children's charity projects.

The shoeboxes have been donated by individuals, schools, businesses, churches and organisations in communities including Barry, Cardiff, Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Llantwit Major, Penarth, Radyr, Rhoose and Taff's Well.

Cardiff, south Glamorgan and the Vale area coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, Ted Bird, said: "It's tremendous to see such kindness, particularly at a time when the economic downturn is hitting so many people.

"Everyone who has donated a shoebox can be absolutely certain that it will have a very positive impact on the child who receives it.

"On behalf of Operation Christmas Child, I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone in Cardiff, south Glamorgan and Vale who took part.

"It's our 21st year and we are so grateful for every shoebox that has ever been donated – we know each one brings happiness to the child who receives it."

Llancarfan whist drive

THE Llancarfan Society holds a whist drive on December 27, at 7.30pm. Admission is £1; prizes, raffle and refreshments.

For tickets, call 01446 781337.

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CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR CHURCH PROJECT TO SAVE MEDIEVAL PAINTINGS

A major award from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Wales, has now recognised the growing international significance of the medieval wall paintings at St. Cadoc's church in Llancarfan.

A grant of £541,900 astonished the St. Cadoc's conservation team when they assembled for a '*Christmas has come early!*' announcement in the village church.

Standing beneath the paintings, Dan Clayton Jones used his final public appearance as chair of the HLF in Wales to announce the award.

He said 'St Cadoc's Church medieval heritage is hugely important to the story of Christianity in Wales, and it is vital that it is properly interpreted and conserved for future generations."

Mr Clayton Jones also prompted enthusiastic laughter when he observed that, seeing this latest revelation of the several Deadly Sins, "I seem to qualify for every one of them!"

Introducing the paintings and expressing gratitude for the award, the Ven. Peggy Jackson, Priest in Charge, underlined how privileged Llancarfan churchgoers were to be entrusted with the care of the paintings.

On behalf of villagers and her assembled team, she welcomed the HLF's faith in recognizing the social, historical and spiritual inheritance that the paintings represent.

She said: "The striking craftsmanship of these paintings is matched only by their vulnerability.

"We can now continue to reveal them, and make them safe on our walls. As a community, we are excited by the prospect of what is still to come, and look forward to learning more and sharing more.'

The most recent conservation session, during October and November, has continued to find ever-more striking 15th century artwork.

The latest discoveries have revealed five of the seven deadly sins – and the team are still counting.

As GEM readers are aware, initial exploratory conservation followed the discovery of a 'thin red line' of ochre.

This rapidly turned out to be part of the frame of a remarkable image of St. George and the Dragon, a classic staging of the iconic tale of the knight rescuing the princess from being fed to the dragon, watched by fraught royal parents in their castle. This is only the third such wall-painting of George and the Dragon ever to be found in Wales, and is by far the most sophisticated.

Subsequent conservation sessions, funded significantly by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and the Waterloo Foundation, revealed a further awful warning – 'Death and the Gallant'.

Here a cadaverous figure, complete with worms, leads a young gent, dressed in the height of 15th Century fashion, off to purgatory. This work seems now unique as a secco wall-painting in Britain.

It is the latest eight-week session, by the distinguished conservators Jane Rutherfoord and Ann Ballatyne, which has now brought Llancarfan's sins to light.

Lime efflorescence still temporarily clouds some of the partially-revealed paintings, but the conservators are happy to display Luxuria / Lust.

Clearly the chaste kiss depicted will lead to other things, urged on by the attendant devil.

Four other sins challenge interpretation with fascinating questions. Why is Accedia – Sloth or Lethargy, being encouraged to kill himself?

Who is the regal personage mocked as Superbia or Pride?



ABOVE: one of the wall paintings. (Photo by Graham Brain)

And do we dare find any modern relevance in the 'Loads of Money' depiction of Avaritia / Avarice and his devils, plying him with ochre-gilded lucre.

At least one more image – that of the Virgin Mary blessing St. George's endeavours – has also come to light.

This is again believed to be a unique graphic representation in British (and possibly western European) churches of the act of blessing 'St.George, Our Lady's Knight'.

Now, this major financial blessing from the Heritage Lottery Fund, augmented by community sponsorship, will allow the revelation and conservation to go forward.

St. Cadoc's can now share a developing understanding of these paintings with visitors near and afar. The wall paintings will prove a significant complement to tourism in the Vale, and an outstanding educational resource for so many descendants of those who enriched their church with art over 500 years ago.

Dan Clayton Jones said: "I'm delighted that this project is helping to conclude my time with HLF, as it embodies everything I like to see in a project.

"It is inspiring to see local volunteers so passionate about playing their part in taking our heritage forward and. in doing so, learning new skills.

"I look forward to returning to the church as a visitor, once the project is complete, and seeing the difference the funding has made."

IAN FELL



ABOVE (left to right): Ian Fell (PCC member), Dan Clayton Jones, Jennifer Stewart (head of HLF in Wales) and the Venerable Peggy Jackson.

Leekes celebrates two silver awards at prestigious event

LEEKES, the home department store, beat national home decorating chains and local specialists to pick up two silver awards at a prestigious DIY Week presentation.

The independent family-owned retailer won the two awards in recognition of the quality of its products, displays, staff and service levels in its decorating and DIY departments.

A spokesman said that with the addition of new ranges from suppliers ,such as Farrow & Ball and Little Greene Paint Company, as well as its core offer from market leaders Dulux, Crown and Johnstones, customers are now offered an even greater choice when decorating their home.

"To supplement this, Leekes also invested in product training for its store teams, to ensure expert advice is available, as well as some innovative new displays."

It became one of the first stores in the UK to use AS Creation's iStudio, an interactive in-store design package which enables customers to view and then print wallpaper options in a realistic home setting, and created special 'shop-in-shop' areas for both Dulux paints and Bosch power tools, offering customers the opportunity to select from one of the widest ranges available.

Lee Tiffin, buying controller at Leekes, commented: "We are always looking for ways to develop and improve our offer through enhancing its presentation, increasing our range of products and developing the services we offer our customers.

"Leekes always commits to the ongoing training of its staff to ensure that they have excellent product knowledge and are able to provide our customers with expert advice when they are choosing from the thousands of products we have in-store.

"Receiving these two awards is a testament to our staff's commitment and knowledge and we are delighted that we have been recognised in this way."



NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

The magic and humour of Tommy Cooper is recalled

by MAC TANNER

THERE are few better qualified to speak about Tommy Cooper than Chris Bleach, our speaker at the last meeting of the year at Barry Men's Forum.

Chris, not only gave details of the comedian's life, but also spoke about the founding and work of the Tommy Cooper Society, which spares no effort in keeping his name and achievements remembered long after his death, which was in 1984.

Thomas Frederick Cooper was born in 1921, in Caerphilly.

There is a plaque on the house of his birth with a wrong date on it.

Chris thought this would have amused Tommy.

His father, invalided out of the army in the First World War, was one of 17 children and was born in Pontypridd.

His mother was from Exeter and found she had a sickly baby on her hands. To build the child up, brandy was put in his milk, leaving one to wonder whether this led to his later life propensity to over-indulgence.

When he was about eight years old, an aunt gave him a present of a magic set. He was assiduous in practice and became a proficient magician.

He liked others to think to the contrary. In 1937, while giving a public performance, things went wrong and that gave him the idea of cleverly guiding them to do so in the future.

We now know that this took much skill and practice.

During the last war, Tommy served as Trooper Cooper in the Royal Horse Guards and left in 1947 as a senior NCO. He had, for some years, entertained the troops as a member of ENSA and always wore a pith helmet as part of his act, when on stage.

In Cairo one day, he misplaced this and 'borrowed' a fez from a nearby waiter instead. He never appeared without it thereafter. Members of the forum agreed that the mental image everyone has of the comedian, to this day, is of him wearing one.

His rise to fame after the war was steady, rather than explosive, until it really took off in the 1960s.

After appearing in Las Vegas, he found his salary had rocketed to some £170,000 per year in 1977.

Our speaker emphasised that Tommy Cooper was always 'careful' with money and only allowed himself one luxury – a flat in his wife's home-town of Eastbourne. They worked closely together and would practice every trick over and over again before every live performance.

She encouraged him to put in a huge attention to detail.

Mr Bleach feels sure that Tommy Cooper's life-style did contribute to his death in his early sixties.

However, so great was the power of his personality that many find it difficult to believe he has been off the stage since 1984.

When his final heart attack came he was in the middle of a performance and the audience could not be blamed for thinking his collapse was part of the act. Sadly, it was not.

At the next meeting on January 5, 2012, David Alexander will speak on 'Jackson Bay Stories'.

Meetings are held at 10.30 am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members are very welcome. For further details contact 02920 594881.

Casey claims Jolly the bear



AT the Vale Labour Party's Christmas fair at St Helen's Church Hall in Barry, a 'Name the Bear' competition, was won by Casey Clarke, who named the Bear 'Jolly.' Jolly (above) is presented to Casey by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

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Double celebration for Mrs Sparkes!



June Sparkes is retiring after 27 years' service to Llangan Primary School.

LLANGAN Primary School has said *'au revoir',* but not goodbye, to Mrs June Sparkes – after 27 years' dedicated service at the school.

June Sparkes, who was a pupil at Llangan Primary School, has retired after 27 years of caring for the pupils as a lunchtime supervisor.

She spent her last lunchtime at the school reminiscing about past times – indeed, the school has many memories, having celebrated its centenary this year!

Mr Noyes, the Headteacher, said: "We will all miss June tremendously, she has been a great member of staff and has looked after the pupils, and staff, well!"

It certainly will not be the last time that we see Mrs Sparkes in Llangan Primary School. We hope to see her on the 'school run' as she is now dedicating her time to looking after her two grandchildren, Summer and newly–arrived Deri, a grandson born to her daughter, Miss Sparkes, last week, who also works at the school as a learning support assistant.

"We hope that you have a well deserved rest after so many years of dedicated service to the pupils and families of Llangan Primary School.

"We would also like to send our congratulations to the extended Sparkes and Jones families on the birth of Deri Jones – we look forward to welcoming him to Llangan Primary School and continuing the family tradition! **SW**

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Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Sut all eich busnes elwa o'r Eisteddfod?

RHWNG Awst 4 – 11 2012, Bro Morgannwg bydd pencadlys celfyddydol Cymru wrth i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ymweld â'r ardal.

Disgwylir 150,000 o ymwelwyr i Faes yr Eisteddfod yn ystod yr wythnos ac mae ymchwil yn ystod Eisteddfodau blaenorol yn dangos bod ymweliad yr Eisteddfod ac unrhyw ardal yn rhoi hwb sylweddol i'r economi lleol gyda chwistrelliad o rhwng £6 – 8 miliwn.

Mae Trefnwyr yr Eisteddfod yn awyddus i bobol leol fanteisio cymaint â phosib o ymweliad yr Eisteddfod ac yn ôl Elfed Roberts, Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod: "Er na allwn warantu y bydd eich busnes yn elwa fe allwn awgrymu dulliau gwahanol y gall eich busnes chi a'r gymuned fusnes lleol elwa o ymweliad y brifwyl a'r ardal."

Llogi Stondin: *Dros gyfnod o 8 diwrnod, mae'r maes 35 erw yn gartref i dros 300 o stondinau – o siopau, busnesau, artistiaid, crefftwyr, elusennau a mudiadau lleol a chenedlaethol a llawer mwy sydd yn penderfynu defnyddio'r Eisteddfod fel 'pop up siop' am yr wythnos.*

Mae'r budd o gael stondin yn yr Eisteddfod yn bellgyrhaeddol gyda nifer o stondinwyr yn son am yr archebion, comisiynau ac ymholiadau derbyniwyd ganddynt fisoedd ac weithiau blynyddoedd ar ôl ardddangos yn yr Eisteddfod.

Os ydych chi yn grefftwr, artist neu fudiad celfyddydol sydd yn awyddus i gael stondin yn yr Eisteddfod efallai gall Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru eich helpu. Mae grantiau gyda nhw ar gael o hyd at £5,000 i arddangos yn yr Eisteddfod.

I weld os ydych chi'n gymwys ac i ddarganfod mwy cysylltwch â swyddfa Celf Cymru yng Nghaerdydd ar 0845 8734 900 neu drwy e bost : gwybodaeth@celfcymru,org.uk . Mae angen i chi fod yn gyflym bodd bynnag gan taw Ionawr 27ain yw'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer ceisiadau.

Mae cael stondin yn yr Eisteddfod yn gyfle marchnata unigryw felly os oes diddordeb gyda chi cysylltwch gyda ni! E bostiwch Eira Bowen eira@eisteddfod.org.uk neu codwch y ffôn am sgwrs 02920 763 777 – fydd Eira yn hapus i ateb unrhyw ymholiadau sydd gyda chi. Dyma'r tro cyntaf ers 1968 i'r W'yl Genedlaethol yma ymweld â'r Fro felly peidiwch â cholli'r cyfle i fod yn rhan ohono.

Darparwyr Llety: *Mae Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod eisoes wedi derbyn gwybodaeth gan nifer fawr o ddarparwyr llety sydd yn awyddus i ymddangos ar ein rhestr llety, ond mae ystafelloedd yn llenwi'n gyflym, rydym yn awyddus felly i glywed gan unrhyw un sydd â llety ar gael yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod.*

Bydd y rhestr llety yn cael ei diweddaru yn gyson ac ar gael ar wefan yr Eisteddfod. Os oes diddordeb gyda chi i gael eich cynnwys ar y rhestr, ewch i wefan yr Eisteddfod i gofrestru - www.eisteddfod.org.uk a chliciwch - 'llety'.

Darparwyr Gwasanaethau: *Mae trefnu'r Eisteddfod yn dasg enfawr a dros y misoedd nesaf fe fydd swyddogion yr Eisteddfod yn chwilio am bob math o wasanaethau a chynnyrch yn enwedig wrth i'r gwaith ar y Maes ei hun gychwyn yn y Gwanwyn. Yn naturiol, mae'n rhaid i'r Eisteddfod chwilio am y prisiau mwyaf cystadleuol bob tro, fodd bynnag rydym yn awyddus i gwmnïoedd lleol i gysylltu gyda ni yn y gobaith y bydd modd cydweithio gyda nhw dros y misoedd nesaf.*

Mae manylion y gwasanaethau y byddwn eu hangen ar gael ar ein gwefan yn yr adran fusnes. Rydym hefyd yn cyhoeddi manylion cyfleoedd i gynnig prisiau ar-lein yn yr adran hon.

Yn ôl Elfed Roberts: *"Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf mae arolygon ymchwil annibynnol wedi dangos bod ardal yn gallu elwa'n economaidd o £6-£8 miliwn o ymweliad yr Eisteddfod. Er bod cyfran o'r arian hwn yn mynd i'r sector dwristiaeth a lletygarwch, rydym hefyd yn gwario cyfran dda ar nwyddau a gwasanaethau yn lleol. Os oes gennych chi a'ch busnes ddiddordeb mewn cael gwybod mwy cysylltwch â ni."*

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda:
Hoffem ddymuno Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i holl gefnogwyr yr Eisteddfod. Diolch yn fawr i chi am ein cefnogi eleni, ac edrychwn ymlaen i gydweithio eto y flwyddyn nesaf wrth i ni edrych ymlaen at Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Dymuniadau gorau i chi oll.

Getting your business ready for the Eisteddfod

BETWEEN August 4 – 11 2012, the Vale will be the cultural capital of Wales as the Eisteddfod comes to town.

Around 150,000 visitors are expected to visit the festival site 'Maes' during the week and studies conducted in recent years have shown that a visit from the Eisteddfod to any area can provide a much needed cash injection into the local economy with a gross economic impact of between £6-8 million.

The Eisteddfod organisers are keen for local people to benefit as much as possible from the Eisteddfod's visit, and although they cannot guarantee that your business will profit from the Eisteddfod what they can do is suggest ways in which the Eisteddfod's visit may benefit your business and the local business community:

Hire a trade stand: Over a period of eight days, the 35-acre Maes is home to more than 300 stands – shops, businesses, artists, craftspeople, charities, local and national organisations and many more that choose to use the Eisteddfod as their ultimate pop up shop.

The benefit of having a stall at the Eisteddfod lasts for much longer than the week itself, with numerous stallholders telling us of the commissions and orders they have received in the months and even years following their visit to an Eisteddfod.

If you are an artist, craft maker, cultural group or organisation then there may be grants available for you from the Arts Council of Wales. They are offering grants of up to £5,000 to show at the Eisteddfod.

To see if you are eligible or to find out more contact the South Wales Office of the Arts Council on 0845 8734 900 or e mail gwybodaeth@celfcymru.org.uk.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this scheme, however, you will need to contact them as soon as possible as the closing date for the grant scheme is January 27 2012.



Eisteddfod shop window.

Having a stall at the Eisteddfod is a unique marketing opportunity, so if you are interested in getting involved then the message is get in touch! Email Eira Bowen, eira@eisteddfod.org.uk, or pick up the phone for a chat on 02920 763 777. Eira will be more than happy to assist you with any queries you may have. This is the first time since 1968 that this great national event will visit the Vale so don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of it.

Accommodation providers: We've already received information from a wide range of accommodation providers keen to appear on our accommodation list, but places are filling up quickly. We're encouraging anyone with accommodation available during Eisteddfod week to get in touch with us to be included on the list which is available on our website, and which will be updated regularly between now and next August.

This is also the list we'll be sending to anyone who contacts the office asking for local accommodation in the Vale area. Anyone interested can complete the online accommodation registration form by going to the 2012 Eisteddfod website – www.eisteddfod.org.uk – and click on 'Accommodation'.

Service providers: Organising the Eisteddfod is a mammoth task and we will be looking for a wide range of services and products as the Eisteddfod approaches, especially as work progresses on the site itself.

Naturally, the Eisteddfod has to look for the most competitive prices; however, we are eager for local companies to get in touch and hope that many businesses from the local area will be keen to work with us over the next few months.

Details of all the services we will need are available in the business section on the Eisteddfod website (www.eisteddfod.org.uk). We are also publishing details of opportunities to quote for work in this section.

Eisteddfod chief executive, Elfed Roberts added: "Over the past few years, independent research has shown that the local area benefits £6-£8 million from the Eisteddfod's visit.

"Part of this money does go to the tourism and leisure, but we also spend a significant amount on services and goods locally. If you and your business would like to know more, please contact us at the Eisteddfod Office."

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year:
We'd like to wish a merry Christmas and a happy new year to all Eisteddfod supporters.

Thank you for supporting us this year, and we look forward to working with you again next year, as we look forward towards the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

Best wishes to you all.



COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

PANTO SUCCESS

THE Christmas pantomime which took place in the Llangan Community Hall on December 17 was a huge success.

Children were catered for in the afternoon and parents at the evening performance.

Treoes Hall

NEW Year's Eve party: dance in the new year with a disco – if you can sing or just make a noise, have a go on the karaoke.

There is a prize for the best and worst singers!

The cost for this evening entertainment is £5 (adults only).

Saron Chapel

Christmas Eve communion service at 6pm.

Singalong

THE Star Inn, Treoes was again the venue for carols and Christmas songs, from *'Come All Ye Faithful'* to *'Rudolph The Red–Nosed Reindeer'*.

One lady volunteered to sing solo as she knew the names of all the reindeer. Iwan Guy conducted the 'Mighty Throne'and was ably supported on the keyboard by his daughter–in–law, Lowry.

Clive and Tricia supplied a lovely supper as well as joining in with the singing; £285 was raised for the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale.

Diary date

JO and Jon Homfray invite you to a 'Hogaroc' at Pen-Llyn Court Big Barn, in Pen-Llyn, on Saturday May 19, 2012, at 7.30pm, tickets £30. Hog roast, full bar, grand raffle, auction, Myfyr Isaac and his band**.**

All profits to the 2012 Vale National Eisteddfod.

For more information and tickets, please telephone Mary Crandon on 01656 861933.



Poem

THE following poem was penned by a Young at Heart member when we were members of the local WI.

Unfortunately, the branch closed due to a lack of members.

I was a successful breeder of standard poodles and took along Bodie to demonstrate at one WI meeting (See cartoon above).

BODIE AT THE WI

Nancy has a great big dog.
His fur is black as night
She brought him to our meeting.
He was an awesome sight
Some poodle this, he's five foot tall
"A standard", she explained
Then showed us how she clipped his fur –
He sat there quite well trained.
But he didn't like the camera flash growled as if to say no more
Barked loudly at the sweeping brush as we slept fur off the floor
Yes Bodie was in charge that night.
We didn't dare to roam.
So we all sat still and quiet 'til Nancy took him home!

AGE CONCERN CHRISTMAS PARTY









These pictures were taken by HEATHER MARCH at the Age Concern Christmas party held on December 8.

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

The beekeeper's role in protecting his hive in winter

IT would appear that winter has arrived; at least the bees think so.

Very little activity is now the order of the day, due to the variability of the weather. However, should we return to milder conditions, the bees could just decide it is good enough to venture out.

Fewer daylight hours and not much in the way of forage, will keep them from straying too far from the hive.

All of the hives are as well provisioned as they can be, some have been supplied with sugar syrup to boost their stores - and the remainder have what I have judged to be sufficient for their needs.

Due to the mild conditions leading up to this weather change, there was much activity going on in all the colonies. This expenditure of energy has to be met with stores enough to meet the demand, so my feeding programme has been extended to do just that.

This is where experience pays off, regardless of what the books say.

I am well satisfied with the number of bees in each hive as I settle them for the winter.

Let me point out that honeybees do not hibernate – they gather in a cluster and maintain a constant temperature within it, and that should lead to the survival of the queen until the spring.

As the winter progresses, the stores 'laid by' will be used by the bees as and when they require them.

Without a doubt, many of those new to beekeeping will be suffering some confusion over the feeding requirements of their bees.

The one thing that needs to be understood is that the bees require temperatures that allow for activity.

This activity will be the taking down of any sugar syrup or its equivalent into the hive and placing it into cells which will then require 'sealing over' once the contents meet the criteria set by the bees.

The seal is of course wax! And this requires wax making by the bees, which in its turn needs temperatures that will allow such events to take place.

Therefore, getting the timing right is crucial. Should any food be offered to bees once the temperature drops below 10 Celsius, it will be ignored because the bees will not be in a temperature range that is in their comfort zone.

Result? Dead bees. In fact it has been reported by the seasonal bee inspectors around the British Isles that on visiting apiaries they are discovering bees that are starving because of unsuitable weather, lack of forage and due to ignorance of the beekeeper.

Some inspectors have even taken to feeding bees in such distress (at their own expense) rather than see them die.

There is a wealth of information in the numerous beekeeping books to be had, but often it is the ideals that are set out, where current conditions should really be the order of the day.

Would that I could depart without mention of the Varroa mite. I have carried out my required treatments and am now busy counting the results. It is not a legal requirement to count the mites, but it really needs doing so that you can become acquainted with your enemy!

Of the many beekeepers I have talked to regarding the mite, it would seem that I am the only one with mites numbering sometimes in their hundreds, they all have very few!

Can this be true? Of course it isn't. They are just not monitoring their hives as I do.

The lack of a tray or board on the underside of the mesh floor that would allow counts to be done is why I get the answers I do.

Admittedly, I do possess a large magnifier with a built-in light, but I do use a hand lens on many occasions and it reveals much.

Between now and next season, I hope to convince more of the beekeepers to monitor their hives on a regular basis and, in so doing, make them aware of Varroa mites.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

ROY doesn't have to take his hat off to anyone these days – it's been automated. We all know that he's a *bona fide* pensioner going on 14! He's living proof of the old adage that you don't stop having fun when you get old; you get old when you stop having fun.

At our recent Christmas dinner, the venue provided helium-filled balloons among the decorations. The temptation was there and so was Roy's festive red and white seasonal topper, with little woolly trees on top.

As the evening progressed, more and more of the balloons were attached to the hat until it finally took flight of its own accord. Such an opportunity was not to be missed, so the proud owner moved around the room to demonstrate his titfer's new found freedom.

He became a little unstuck, or rather his hat wouldn't oblige when the balloons were under a low beam! Our aged 'young lad' solved the problem by kneeling gallantly for the occasion.

Fortunately, the number of balloons required meant that the lift-off was achieved after most of the meal was over, so there were no reports of laughter-induced indigestion. I have it on authority that a glass or two of wine works wonders too.

I said a few words of welcome; noting the presence of several members who had made a special effort to overcome difficulties to be there; and pleased to see several partners also there in spite of not enjoying the best of health.

Rhona took the distance prize because she was supposed to be in Costa Rica, but turned up on the night. We are a very friendly club, but even I knew it would have been a bit of journey for a meal out with friends. Sadly, she was obliged to return home early because of her holiday companion's illness.

Special thanks were made to Roy (the very same) for all the work he put in on the organisation of the evening (before and during).

I usually arrive with the odd computer-related joke for the occasion and this was no exception. I explained that I expected half the audience not to understand the joke, but no doubt their guest would explain it to them later...*Boom, Boom!*

After a few old chestnuts (groans) I closed by wishing everyone a 'Happy Christmas' and safe journey home.

A hat (not THAT one) was passed around for the staff in appreciation of the good service and nice food.

Thereafter there was the slow-motion scrum for coats and cheerful goodnights as the diners dispersed, with me being the last one out through the door.

Who said, 'As usual?'

For more information, telephone 029 20708439.

HOWARD DESMOND (chairman)

Future Window Solutions offers commitment and great customer service

Craig Harewood



CRAIG and Dina Harewood of Future Window Solutions, which has provided home improvement and building services to commercial and residential clients for many years, believe that the company's attention to detail is one of its great strengths.

Craig explained: "We are a family run company and have grown from strength to strength with our commitment and the fact that good customer service is our priority.

"Future Window Solutions are members of Network Veka. It is an independent nationwide organisation set up to give our customers peace of mind that they have selected a highly respected and professional local company that has the backing of a national trade organisation.

"Veka constantly monitors our performance to ensure we maintain the high standard of workmanship that is not only required for our continued membership, but also to ensure all our work and products meet the required standards set by the Government's building regulations that covers energy performance that will help save on your energy bills."

Among the company's clients are Domestic Property, Ashgrove School Penarth, Mynydd Cynfig School Bridgend, Barclays Bank branches, Dwr Cymru, Youth Offenders' Centre, car showrooms, local estate agencies and Local Authorities.

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"The company also provides a 'no job is too small' repair service."

Future Window Solutions takes pride in the fact that the majority of enquiries come via recommendation and believe its high standards is responsible for the work.

Craig added: "People should be assured that all tenders and enquiries will have our full co-operation and full attention at all times.

"Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information."

Future Window Solutions would like to wish all its customers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team.

Craig and Dina Harewood would also like to thank the staff and team for all their hard work this year.



The Future Window Solutions team is celebrating another successful year.

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Out and About with The GEM

Second outing for Sherlock is an elementary success!

ONE of the more pleasing cinematic surprises of 2009, was the success of Guy Ritchie's take on Sherlock Holmes.

With Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law making for a wonderfully bickering pair as the titular character and Watson – along with some revisions to the character – the film was a commercial and critical triumph.

So it's hardly surprising that the three men have returned for a second outing.

Subtitled *A Game of Shadows,* it sees Holmes and Watson team up again to try and bring down their greatest adversary, Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris), with the help of mysterious fortune teller Sim (Noomi Rapace) whose motives are less than clear...

The success of the last Sherlock Holmes film no doubt gave the character a massive filip, in terms of bringing the adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous creation to a younger audience, but similarly created a groundswell of expectation for further big screen adventures.

After all, said first outing could easily have been a disaster, rather than the criticaland commercial success it was.

So it is pleasing to see that, with all the main players returning for duty, *A Game of Shadows* manages to espouse both the 'if-it-ain't-broke...' maxim, while also going into slightly darker and adult territory – making for an entertaining blockbuster that firmly ticks all the right boxes.

Much of the success of the first outing lay in the chemistry between Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law as Holmes and Watson, the pair sparklng together and making a formidable double act.

They seem to pick up where they left off in this instalment, their repartee no less amusing and touching, while along with the raised stakes of the story, comes more depth and emotion for the characters.

Downey Jr is patently just that little more comfortable with the character this time, and while it would have been easy for him to go a little too over the top in his portrayal, instead he walks the line between genius and fool wonderfully well.

Showing a lightness of touch when needed, and more than capable of conveying the weight of the more dramatic moments, it is another wonderful outing for an actor who is making the most of his big opportunity.

Opposite him, Law is similarly engaging, the partnership with Downey Jr feeling real and heartfelt, and it allows the actor to cut loose.

Playing the straight man to Holmes, the actor is generous in giving the floor to his co-star, but delivers when he needs to. The script affords him more of an opportunity to shine this time around, giving him more to work with as Watson becomes important to the plot, and Law is more than up to the task.

Noomi Rapace shakes off her role as Lisbeth in *The Girl...* franchise with another ballsy female, and though her character feels underwritten, she offers a decent turn as the mysterious Sim, while Jared Harris (son of Richard) makes for a shadowy Moriarty, the evil inside menacing and foreboding rather than broad and gregarious, as he battles wits with Holmes.

There are also pleasing turns from Stephen Fry and Kelly Reilly, in what is a well-acted piece across the board.

Screenwriters Kieran and Michele Mulroney do a sterling job of transposing the characters and the set-up of Conan-Doyle's characters onto the big screen, the film's story dense yet never feeling too bloated or overly complicated, winding in modern-day concerns and transposing them to 1890's Europe.

It also retains the fine balance between comedy and drama, never overplaying one over the other, making for a light but substantial story.

The film is lent a further sheen of quality from Guy Ritchie's direction, who, much like the leads, is obviously far more comfortable second time round and it shows in his confident direction.

Ritchie has sometimes struggled to balance style over substance, but here he gives the film a grander scope than the first, while allowing the story to flow.

He may overdo it slightly with his usual stylistics, but when they are as impressive as a forest foot chase that degenerates into gunfire and carnage, you can more than forgive him, the set-piece stand-out in a well-directed effort.

A Game of Shadows isn't afraid of having fun, and in a year where 'blockbuster' films seemed to be loath to engage in that, it makes this second outing for Holmes & Co more than welcome; with an ending that hints at further adventures for the characters, a third instalment would be elementary, my dear readers!

VERDICT - A bolder, confident sequel that raises the stakes and delivers in spades, *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* sees all the main players on top form.

With entertaining performances from Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law, and Guy Ritchie's stylised direction, the film offers a hugely entertaining 128 minutes.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Sherlock Holmes* (2009), *Chinatown* (1974)

ScreenTalk would like to wish all readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. Watch out for the ScreenTalk top ten of 2011 on January 5!

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Personalities fight for a culinary title

FORMER Miss Wales Courtenay Hamilton is among personalities taking on S4C's cooking challenge this Christmas in the series '*Dudley: Pryd o Sêr*'.

Between December 27 and 30, Pryd o Sêr sets a culinary challenge for a group of eight celebrities.

"I admit I didn't do much cooking before taking part in the show," says the model from the Vale of Glamorgan. "I would always make excuses that I was too busy. But Pryd o Sêr has shown me that it is easy to put together a nice meal in a short space of time."

The other stars joining her are: actor Steffan Rhodri; Siân Lloyd, the news broadcaster; actress Ffion Dafis; presenter Rhodri Ogwen Williams; jockey, Hywel Davies; former AM Eleanor Burnham, and one of the Only Men Aloud boys, Wyn Davies.

"We had such a great time. We all got along really well and became good friends," adds Courtenay. "Steffan Rhodri was especially patient with me and since I don't know much about cooking, he was always happy to help me with any questions or problems I had."

The series was filmed over four days at the end of October and the first programme is on Tuesday, December 27 (7:15pm, English subtitles).

The final is on December 30 (8:25pm, English subtitles).



2010 Miss Wales winner Courtenay Hamilton competing in Dudley: Pryd o Ser

Connie draws appeal crowds

STAGE star Connie Fisher recently opened the Noah's Ark Appeal Barry Christmas toy and clothes sale, when she braved the winter weather to cut the ribbon across the entrance to the Tabernacle.

Earlier this year, appeal vice-president Connie ran the British Military Fitness 10k, raising hundreds of pounds for the Noah's Ark Appeal.

Barry–based Connie said: "I'm absolutely delighted that the sale raised so much for a brilliant cause. Seeing all the toys and games made me feel really festive – Christmas is here!"

The sale raised more than £700 and all proceeds contributed to the Noah's Ark Christmas Stocking appeal, which, in addition to boosting funding for a new hydrotherapy pool, will purchase much needed toys and games for the children's hospital for Wales playrooms

To donate to the Christmas Stocking appeal this Christmas, visit www.noahs-ark-appeal.org.

This Christmas & New Year at the
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CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

FAMILIES and children are warmly welcomed to the annual 'Carols by Candlelight' on Christmas Eve at the church of Merthyr Dyfan, in Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Colcot, Barry.

Beginning at 3.30pm, and lasting for around one hour, this will be an opportunity, particularly for children, to experience the true spirit of Christmas in the beautiful setting of this ancient church, which is one of the oldest Christian sites in Wales, believed to date from around the year 600AD.

The service will be taken by Father Robert Parish, with singing led by members of the choir of St. Paul's Church and organist Mary Smith. Admission is free and there is car parking at the church.

There will be a special welcome to all people who live on the Colcot estate, many who may never have visited their 'own' church.

On Christmas morning carols and sung mass are at Merthyr Dyfan Church at 8.45am.

Further information from Father Robert Parrish on 01446 735943.

Lucky winners in hamper competition

THE three lucky winners of the GEM's recent competition, in association with the Quarter Penny Cafe in Cowbridge, are making plans to enjoy their prizes.

The winners each receive a Christmas hamper worth £60 from the Quarter Penny Cafe, with treats including a Christmas pudding, ready made meals, a Welsh cheese board and much more.

The winners are Annette Staples of Bridgend, Joanne Emery of Pencoed, and Jeanette Thomas of Cowbridge.

Enjoy your Christmas treats, ladies, and keep looking out for more great competitions in The GEM!

Candle lighting

THE Friends of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery hold their fourth annual candle-lighting event in the Cemetery Chapel, Barry, from 10am to 3pm on Christmas Eve.

All are welcome and free hot drinks will be available. All proceeds to Cemetery good works. *For further information, contact Nic Hodges 01446 736906.*

Panto brings house down!

PALMERSTON school Key Stage 2 pupils put on a magnificent performance of '*Cinderella Rockerfella*' for parents and friends of the school, when the audience was truly entertained by outstanding acting and hilarious slapstick comedy in a modern twist to the traditional fairy tale.

In true panto style, there was cheering, booing and even the odd sob – but, luckily, there was a happy ending for all to enjoy as Cinderella found her prince! *Well done to all the pupils who worked hard to make it such a success!* **SC**

CRIB SERVICE

ALL Saints Church, Victoria Square, is holding its annual crib service for younger children at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

Other special Christmas services include Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day – Holy Eucharist at 8 am and an all-age Eucharist service at 10 am.

At St Peter's, Old Cogan, there will be a Christmas Day service at 11am. *All are welcome.*

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NATIVITY ENDS TERM ON A FESTIVE NOTE



The Holton Road Primary School junior dance club.

Age Concern's fayre raises £380

MAYOR of the Vale, John Clifford, attended Age Concern's Christmas fayre where Nona Hexter, the Ageing Well co-ordinator, said: "I would like to thank the Mayor for his support and I am delighted to announce that we raised £380 which will go towards the refurbishment of the Senior Health Shop in Barry and Barry Good Neighbour's activities in the Vale."

JUNIOR children at Holton Primary School performed a unique outdoor living Nativity to parents last week.

The rain stopped for the children to perform a selection of modern and traditional carols and songs.

This culminated in year-3 children presenting a Nativity scene in the school's Friendship Garden.

The infant children hosted a traditional Christmas Nativity service at Crossways Church and the junior choir also led the Ewenny Priory Arts Festival hosted by Ms Jane Hutt AM.

Children performed 12 traditional carols.

Finally, the junior dance club performed in the end of term assembly that celebrated and reinforced the term's work of working together; a topic studied in all classes from Nursery to year-6.

Traditional Service

S T P A U L ' S Church, Barry, celebrates a traditional service of carols, the first mass of Christmas and Blessing of the Christmas Crib at 11pm on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning, there will be carols, a procession and sung mass at 10am.

Playgroup children raise cash for charity



ABOVE: Staff and children of the KiddieWinkles Paygroup in Barry, dress up to raise money for charity.

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup children were at Tesco in Barry last week carol singing to raise funds for Alzhiemers.

A spokeswoman said: "The children dressed up in fancy dress, travelled by minibus to Tesco, sang their little hearts out with songs such as jingle bells, and raised just under £50 in the 20 minutes we were singing in the store.

"Tesco very kindly took us into their staff canteen and we enjoyed 'Krispy Kreme' doughnuts and a drink before travelling back to playgroup in time to go home. We were supported by lots of our parents and friends from playgroup.

"The shoppers at Tesco were also very supportive along with the brilliant team of staff who looked after us." **JE**

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Seasons Greetings

Christmas – things may get a bit hectic, but it makes the good times all the more special

by PHILIP IRWIN

IN the 1970s, no variety show would be complete without a plate-spinning act – a standard part of any juggler's repertoire.

He would set up around a dozen poles, and start a plate spinning on each one.

Of course, by the time he set the last one spinning, the first would have lost momentum and be about to fall, so the act consisted of the juggler sprinting back and fore, as one plate after another looked ready to drop.

It's hard not to see Christmas in the same light, sometimes, when it comes to getting ready for the big day.

It might be your own fault – because you left the shopping too late – and then forgot how long it would take to wrap the presents.

On the other hand, you might be the one (usually mum!) who has to take on the task of preparing a Christmas dinner – made more difficult now that Jamie Oliver and his fellow chefs claim that your meal is not complete unless your roast poatoes have been seasoned with Mexican garlic and Sumatran coriander.

What is more, there is always the nagging feeling that you have forgotten something – a present for a nephew, perhaps, or the advocaat for an aunt's Christmas snowball!

There is, of coure, no way round this problem. The only solution is to remind yourself to enjoy the aftermath.

When you get stressed – look forward to something you can savour – whether that is a bracing walk with friends, the chance to spend time with family, or the *Doctor Who* Christmas special.

For most people, there will be time between the big day and the New Year to wind down.

Savour every moment of that 'downtime' because real life is just around the corner!

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the constituents in Illtyd Ward

From Councillors Janice Charles, Anthony Hampton and Emlyn Williams

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Wish all their constituents compliments of the season and a healthy, happy new year.

Llantwit Major Town Council

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Peace and Goodwill at Christmas time

From

RICHARD BERTIN

Independent Councillor for Barry Court Ward

01446-736227 – www.richardbertin.com

Councillor John Clifford

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council extends Seasons Greetings to all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mae'r Cynghorydd John Clifford

Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn Cyfarchion yr Wyl i holl drigolion y Fro.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

Seasons Greetings

INSTEAD OF SENDING CARDS, THESE ADVERTISERS HAVE KINDLY PLACED THEIR FESTIVE MESSAGE WITH THE GEM, WHO WILL, IN TURN, DONATE A PERCENTAGE TO THE NSPCC.

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Vale of Glamorgan Councillors
Sally Bagstaff, Eric Hacker and Gwyn John
wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year

Scout post success

THIS Christmas, the Scout post has been a big success and all cards will have been delivered.

The Cowbridge area covers not just the town and Llanblethian, but also the local villages from Treoes to Llantrithyd.

This year more than 40 Scout families and friends have helped, and without them the whole scheme would not be possible.

A huge thank you must go to our outlets in the town, who not only sell the vast majority of the stamps, but also provide space for the post boxes.

I hope all of you who have used the Scout post this year are satisfied with the deliveries, and will use it again next year.

David Weber, Llanblethian (*unit assistant*)

OLIVER AND WILL STAR IN NEW YEAR'S DAY SHOW

TWO brothers from Dinas Powys are to star in the BBC show *Copycats* on New Year's Day.

Oliver Turner (13) and his brother Will (12) who attend screen acting classes at Ferris Entertainments in Penarth, were chosen by producers to audition for the BBC show.

Not only were Oliver and Will successful at their first ever audition, having been coached in audition technique by Peter Ferris at the Penarth classes, they went on to appear in the programme.

They were so good that they got the highest score ever in one of the sections of the show 'The Ballroom' – but you'll have to wait until January 1 to see whether they won...

Oliver said: "We had to go up to BBC Scotland to film the show, and although it was mad being on a set, we were okay with the cameras because we had already worked on camera with Peter at the classes."

Will said: "It was great meeting Mark and Sam, the hosts. They were great fun and had their picture taken with us and our family."

The show will be broadcast on BBC on January 1 at 8.15am.



RIGHT: Keep an eye out for Oliver and Will on New Year's Day when they appear in the BBC show Copycats.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Plan your 2012 Marketing NOW – through the Christmas break.
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from your local businesses and The GEM



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would like to thank all their customers and wish them a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
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would like to wish all his customers in the Vale a very Merry Christmas
Tel: Paul Wright
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News from the Penarth and District Ramblers

Stroll through the rural Vale recalls snippets of history

ON a crisp, wintry morning, which later developed into a lovely clear, still day that was perfect for walking, five members joined leader Rachel in the Llantwit Major area.

Crossing the Windmill playing fields, the group headed towards Great Frampton, once a fine manor house that was destroyed by fire during the 1990s, and the name is believed to be derived from Adam De Francton, an English knight who killed Llewellyn, the last Prince of Wales.

Crossing fields in a northerly direction, it was good to note the repair work that had been carried out on one particular stile that was previously in a shocking state before they reached Sigingstone (or Sigginstone).

In the village there is a memorial plaque dedicated in 1990 for the 40th anniversary of the horrific Llandow air disaster.

On March 12, 1950, an Avro Tudor V took off from Dublin on a private passenger flight to Llandow following a trip to Belfast for the Five Nations rugby match between Wales and Ireland. The plane crashed near Sigingstone, killing 80 people, with only three survivors.

The group joined a lovely old green lane with lush grass and fine moss in front of cottages near the Victoria Inn and crossed fields, passing the reservoir to reach Wilton Farm. Crossing the lane they continued through fields towards Nash Manor, which was a Benedictine Grange during the 12th century.

After King Henry V111 broke off relations with Rome, following his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, he gave Nash Manor to Sir Edward Carne, who had been in his service and this remained Carne family property until 1951.

By now, the group had encountered some very impressive mud and, turning northeast, they followed paths beside the Factory Brook which, with its various springs, is always damp.

Carefully avoiding a magnificent bull, cows and calves, the group tackled some awkward stiles, eventually reaching Llanblethian, where the village church is dedicated to St John the Baptist.

In 1477, the impressive tower was built and was reputedly a gift from Anne Neville, wife of Richard III.

At the junction of Causeway Hill and Factory Road lies the ford and footbridge by the old wool factory, where the water was a major factor to wash the fleeces clean before the combing and spinning processes.

Wool and lace making, based at Piccadilly in the village, was a thriving industry and the name may derive from a tailor called Robert Baker who had a shop in London making and selling piccadills, stiff collars with scalloped edges and broad lace borders.

After making his fortune, he built a house in open country outside London and named it Piccadilly House.

Next, the group journeyed on to Llandough, where the remains of a 14th century fortified manor stand, and just outside the village they stopped for lunch watching dark clouds depositing rainfall on Barry while they remained dry.

Passing through an old quarry and yet more squelching mud they moved on to Llanmihangel, where Plas Llanmihangel, once a fortified manor, stands on rising ground overlooking the church, which was built in the mid 13th century to service the owners and estate workers.

Their return was made through open fields and back to Llanmaes by way of one of the many disused airfield tracks in the area for the short trek back to their start point in Llantwit Major.

On December 24, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk in the St Donats area; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

If you do not have a programme and wish to access the groups' walks over Christmas and New Year, enter Penarth and District Ramblers into your search engine or for a selection of seasonal walks access www.ramblers.org.uk/winterwalks.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD.



Year-10 pupils show their tent building prowess on one of the tents purchased with a recent donation. From right: Aberthaw Power Station production manager, Andy Harrison, teachers Mr Biggs and Mr Smith, with deputy head Mr Davis and year-10 pupils.

Bronze award hopefuls get £1,500 power boost

A DONATION of £1,500 from Aberthaw Power Station has secured a dry expedition for Cowbridge Comprehensive year-10 pupils seeking to achieve the bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Teacher Mr Biggs, who co-ordinates the bronze scheme at the school, said: "We are so pleased with the donation that we received. We have been able to purchase 10 tents."

"It is such a great opportunity for personal development," said Andy Harrison, Aberthaw Power Station production manager.

"Our charity committee is very proud to support local youngsters who are able to participate in the variety of life skills and character forming activities that the Duke of Edinburgh scheme can give."

Deputy head Mr Davis added that the school is fortunate that the teachers who volunteer to run the extra-curricula activity are so committed and generous with their time, to ensure pupils get the maximum benefit from their involvement.



LEFT: Jane Hutt AM is flanked by Mr Cook and Mrs Haggard.

Robins Lane residents tell AM of concerns

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, has met Robins Lane residents to discuss their concerns about the impact of future building plans, in the light of flooding incidents, and the lack of adequate drainage.

As recently as November 3, heavy rain took local residents back to the 2007 major floods, as the water rose in the street.

The AM is taking this up with planning officers and visible services at the Vale Council.

Artist (95) has a special cake!



Charles Byrd enjoys tea and birthday cake at the Mayor's Parlour.

WELSH artist Charles Byrd was recently invited by the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun John Clifford, to the Town Hall, Barry, to celebrate his 95th birthday with tea and birthday cake in the Mayor's Parlour.

He was born in Pontypridd in 1916, trained as an engineer, but became a full time artist in 1950.

Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, his work was typified by paintings depicting scenes of everyday life in and around Cardiff, where he has lived and worked all his life.

During the 1960s, he experimented with abstract themes, eventually moving into kinetic sculpture, for which he is probably best known.

His work is represented in many public collections throughout Wales and beyond.

His machine entitled "A Maquette for a Futuristic Tower" and one of his abstract paintings are on display in the County Library, Barry.

Work to raise low bridge welcomed

SHADOW transport minister, Byron Davies, has welcomed news that Assembly Government funding means work can start on raising the headroom at a railway bridge near North Cornelly.

Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, said that because of this low bridge, high-sided lorries visiting the Kenfig Industrial Estate had been unable to get to the site directly from the M4 at Margam.

"Instead, they have had to leave the motorway at Pyle and travel through North Cornelly in order to by-pass the bridge," he pointed out.

"Villagers have had to put up with heavy lorries thundering past their homes for years. But, thankfully, all that is to end soon."

Neath Port Talbot Council has received funding of £850,000 from the Welsh Government to lower the road beneath the bridge so that lorries will be able to get under it.

Work starts in January.

"This scheme, which includes changes to traffic flow by the bridge, will also boost the industrial estate and make it more attractive to incoming businesses," added Mr Davies, who is also Shadow Minister for Regeneration. "This will be money well spent."

'Work with local businesses' COUNCIL IS URGED

THE Vale Council has been urged by Barry councillor Rob Curtis to work with local businesses to create more apprenticeships for young people.

He requested a report investigating how the council "can create, with the help of our partners, more local apprenticeships for the benefit of our young people."

It is due to go before the economy and environment scrutiny committee at its meeting early in January.

The Labour councillor for the Gibbonsdown ward said: "I want the council to lead the way in creating more apprenticeships but more importantly, I want us to work with local businesses so that together we can really make a difference.

"Putting young people on the dole is not just a waste of talent, but a waste of money too."

'Watch out for horse riders on the road' – DRIVERS ARE URGED

DINAS POWYS campaigners have met Mike Penning MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport and Vale MP Alun Cairns – to discuss their concerns about drivers' awareness of horses and riders on the road.

They raised the issue of road safety with the Minister during his recent visit to Barry and are pressing for learners and other motorists to be reminded of the need to overtake animals safely.

Mr Cairns said: "One of the Vale's best-kept secrets is that there are more horses and ponies here than cattle.

"To make sure the Vale continues to be a great place for all to enjoy, it's vital that drivers and riders are reminded of the care they should take on our roads."



ABOVE: (left to right): Coun Rhodri Traherne, Alun Cairns MP, campaigners – Sian Vesey, Viv Pritchard, Sue Lewis, Michelle Powell and Transport Minister, Mike Penning MP.

Mike Penning added: "I shall be looking further into the data surrounding incidents with ponies and horses on our roads across the Vale and the UK."

BARRIVALE BRIDGE NEWS

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, December 6. Joint first (58.85 per cent) – Jane Brook and Denis Mottram, and Betty Lewis and Mark Roderick.

In third were Kay Dyer and Mike Close on 56.77 per cent. Helen Jordan and Judith Owen won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

SEA VIEW LADS ENJOY A BUSY (AND FRUITFUL) END TO YEAR

The past months have been memorable with members enjoying some great catches and some even better craic.

At the end of October we fished for the prized Bert Peterson trophy, a cracking day weather wise with lots of support from the club members which ensured that a good day was had by all.

A total of 28 members fished this competition with about half of them weighing in. Fish of note included a sole of 1lb 10oz for P. Coles and a ling of 3lb 5oz and bull huss of 3lb 14oz for Andy Page.

A large portion of members went on the annual trip to the Canaries and were rewarded with typical warm weather and hospitality. All anglers fished hard throughout the week, many taking advantage of the cover of darkness to try their luck.

It was a testament of the dedication of our members to see so many returning to the digs after a session lasting well into the early hours, often bumping into others on their way out to catch the first light of dawn!

Best fish landed must be ICA's Monkfish of around 40lb along with some very good Bream landed by several of the others.

At an open match fished at Barry for charity, members took top places as well as raising funds for a worthy cause – well done Aida!

On November 27, to end the month in style, more than 30 anglers fished the first leg of our annual Christmas competition. November ended just as October did with excellent weather making the day extra special and some good catches did justice to the event.

Few whiting and only a solo cod showed up but the 'summer' species were in plentiful supply with double figure rays plus bags of dogs and eels which ensured anglers caught plenty.

As well as club points, we fished for the Wyndham Page Trophy and while the Cup was lifted by Gary Morgan with more than 26lb of fish, Wyndham would no doubt have been amused to see his son Andy win more than £30 with a poor cod weighing in at just 6oz!

The second leg of the Christmas competition fished on December 18 was again well supported and despite the appalling recent weather we had sunshine and clear skies, albeit with a wintry chill. Whiting made up most bags although two cod were caught, the best being an excellent fish of over 8lb caught by Gerald Spiteri.

Micky Langford won on the day with a catch made up largely of whiting with Glynn Warners and Johnny Jones on his tail, Glynn also landing a 4lb codling.

Glynn's son Nathan and Gerald Spiteri ended up in the points and Micky won the Christmas competition overall, having done well in the first leg. He also won the Eddie Frost Trophy.

Big thanks you to all the members who have supported the club and especially to those that have put themselves out as club officers, tour agents and representatives at our many events and trips. 2011 has been a tremendous year with no end of trips, competitions, excellent catches and good company!

RESULTS:

Bert Peterson Memorial Trophy Sunday 30th October

1st Lucky Lougher 21lb 06.5oz
2nd Steve Doble 11lb 11oz
3rd Paul Coles 08lb 11oz
4th Andy Page 08lb 07oz
5th B.J. Dawes 08lb 05oz
6th Richard Bond 07lb 15oz

Nominated Species Pouting 1lb 10oz Tworods Morgan

NOVEMBER 6 COMPETITION:

1st Ada Harris 13lb 04oz
2nd Micky Langford 11lb 06oz
3rd John Jones 08lb 08oz
4th Steve Hinder 04LB 03oz
5th Paul Crook 02lb 02oz
6th Gerald Spiteri 01lb 01oz

NOVEMBER 13 COMPETITION:

1st Gary Morgan 26lb 10oz
2nd Kev Gardener 14lb 12oz
3rd Lucky Lougher 10lb 04.5oz
4th Roy Harding 08lb 00oz
5th John Jones 03lb 03oz
6th Wayne Taylor 02lb 08oz
7th Ada Harris 01lb 15oz

Fish of note included Kev Gardener (12lb 04oz blonde ray) and Gary Morgan (11lb 08oz and 11lb 02oz small eyed rays).

NOVEMBER 20 COMPETITION:

1st A Harris 14lb 10oz
2nd S Doble 2lb 1oz
3rd L Thomson 2lb 0oz
4th T Williams 1lb 8 oz
5th P Crook 10oz
5th T Gwyther 10oz

Well done Ada for winning the open; G John was second and Ray Cristo third.

JC

Cameron on Olympic trail

BRIDGEND'S Cameron Davies has received a early Christmas present this year with the long awaited arrival of his acceptance letter for the Tae Kwon Do Team GB.

The team trials are being held at the newly completed Tae Kwon Do academy at sport city Manchester. Cowbridge instructor Simon Griffiths agrees that this is a terrific opportunity for Cameron's profile to be raised not only in the Vale but onto the larger world stage.

With this fast track development programme now in place, one of Great Britain's most exciting Olympic sport opportunities is available here in Wales.

Darren's conger is the big catch!

A TOTAL OF 23 Dow Corning Sea Anglers fished Cold Knap and Porthkerry in their annual Christmas event.

Conditions were atrocious at times, with strong winds and heavy downpours but anglers don't worry about the weather, as long as the fish are biting.

At the end of the match, 20 hardy fishermen brought fish to the scales and top man on the night was Darren Stevens, who caught an 8lb 14oz conger and had a final weight of 10lb 2oz. He caught the fish on high water from Porthkerry and his name will now go in the Dow hall of fame of Christmas winners.

The majority of the fish caught were dogfish and whiting, with a few weighing well over the pound mark.

The rest of the top 10 were as follows: Second was Dow stalwart Dave West with 6lb 6oz; third, Vince Sjodin with 5lb 9oz (he also won the shore league); fourth, BJ Dawe, 4lb 10oz; fifth, Lee Byrnes, 4lb 6oz; sixth, John Little, 4lb 1oz; seventh, Matt West, 4lb; eighth, Daniel Crump, 3lb 10oz, ninth, Gareth Griffiths, 3lb 6oz and 10th was Nigel Thompson with 2lb 5oz.

The boat league has one more trip, with Vince well out in front of the chasing pack. There is an AGM at Gordon Bennett's (skittle alley) on Friday, December 10 at 7.30pm. New members are welcome, call John on 07792 605 640.

Finally, a big thank you to all involved with the charity open, from fishermen to raffle buyers, and to all who donated prizes. £1,600 was raised for Ashgrove School in Penarth.

JOHN LITTLE

Send us your match reports - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk



VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Keep up to date with all your council information over the festive period by visiting:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

or call Contact OneVale on:

01446 700111



Our Christmas opening hours are:

	Saturday 24 December	Sunday 25 December	Monday 26 December	Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December	Sunday 1 January	Monday 2 January	Tuesday 3 January
Contact One Vale	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 16:30	08:30 - 16:30	08:00 - 17:00	08:00 - 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:00 - 18:00
In emergencies both Contact OneVale (01446 700111) and the Social Services Emergency Duty Team (029 2078 8570) are available 24-hours a day.											
Main Reception (Civic and Dock Offices)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00
Benefits and Council Tax	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:45 - 16:30	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual
Housing	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00
Public Protection	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual	Open as usual	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual
Cashiers/Finance	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:45 - 16:30	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:45 - 16:30
Leisure Centres	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual	Open as usual	Open as usual	Open as usual	Open as usual	CLOSED	Open as usual	Open as usual
Libraries	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual	Open as usual	Open until 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual

There are no changes to your refuse or recycling days over the Christmas period.

You can also email C1V@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or text C1V, then your message to 60066

The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

...and Santa's been to Central Park, too

Photographs by
ANDY WICKS

A Santa's Grotto was held at Central Park in Barry recently.

As you can see from Andy Wicks' photos, there was lots of excitement including ice sculpting, a snowman, and children promising Santa that they had been good for a whole year!





Meeting the 'main man'!



ABOVE: A chance for a snowball fight!



The ice man cometh!

Ysgol Sant Curig's fair raises £1,000



ABOVE: Sion Corn welcomed the children in his grotto.

CHILDREN met Father Christmas/Sion Corn in his very own 'winter wonderland grotto' at Ysgol Sant Curig.

Stalls included nail painting, glitter tattoos, face painting and games.

Prizes were donated by local companies and businesses in the Barry and Cardiff area.

The day raised an estimated £1,000 to help fund books for children, nursery up to year-6, play areas and equipment and communal areas outside the school. **TL**

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEWIS STREET (PART), CASTLE STREET (PART) AND GLAMORGAN STREET (PART), BARRY - PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES AND AMENDMENT TO EXISTING NO WAITING AT ANY TIME ORDER 2011

1. On the 16th December 2011 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 45, 46 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 3rd January 2012 or the date the necessary signs / road markings are in place, whichever is the later and may be cited as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council Lewis Street (Part), Castle Street (Part) and Glamorgan Street (Part), Barry – Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Places and Amendment to Existing No Waiting At Any Time Order 2011".

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 3rd January 2012 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

Disabled Persons Parking Places

Lewis Street

On its north side from a point 7 metres west of its junction with Park Crescent, for a distance of 6.6 metres west.

Castle Street

On its north side from a point 7 metres west of its junction with Park Crescent, for a distance of 6.6 metres west.

Glamorgan Street

On its north side from a point 7 metres west of its junction with Park Crescent, for a distance of 6.6 metres west.

The Borough of Barry (Various Roads) (No 1) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Order 1971, ref TRO 566 is to be amended as follows:

Delete paragraph 11 of the Schedule relating to Lewis Street and replace with the following:

Lewis Street

On its north side from its junction with Park Crescent for a distance of 7 metres west.

On its south side from its junction with Park Crescent for a distance of 12 metres west.

Delete paragraph 13 of the Schedule relating to Castle Street and replace with the following:

Castle Street

On its north side from its junction with Park Crescent for a distance of 7 metres west.

On its south side from its junction with Park Crescent for a distance of 12 metres west.

Delete paragraph 15 of the Schedule relating to Glamorgan Street and replace with the following:

Glamorgan Street

On its north side from its junction with Park Crescent for a distance of 7 metres west.

On its south side from its junction with Park Crescent for a distance of 12 metres west.

Dated this 22nd day of December 2011.

M. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2011

GORCHYMYN MANNAU PARCIO ARFAETHEDIG AR GYFER POBL ANABL A NEWIDIADAU I ORCHYMYN PRESENNOL 'GWAHARDD AROS AR UNRHYW ADEG' MEWN RHANNAU O LEWIS STREET, CASTLE STREET A GLAMORGAN STREET, Y BARRI

1. Ar 16 Rhagfyr 2011, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 1, 2, 45, 46 a 53 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob p_er galluogi arall, Orchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlenni isod.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 3 Ionawr 2012 neu ar y dyddiad y bydd yr arwyddion a'r marciau ffordd priodol yn barod (pa un bynnag a fo hwyraf). Gellir cyfeirio ato fel 'Gorchymyn Mannau Parcio Arfaethedig ar gyfer Pobl Anabl a Newidiadau i Orchymyn presennol 'Gwahardd Aros ar unrhyw Adeg' mewn Rhannau o Lewis Street, Castle Street a Glamorgan Street, Y Barri, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2011'.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal dan sylw yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn, neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod, neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 3 Ionawr 2012 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN

Mannau Parcio ar gyfer Pobl Anabl

Lewis Street

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o fan sy'n 7 medr i'r gorllewin o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent, am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Castle Street

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o fan sy'n 7 medr i'r gorllewin o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent, am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Glamorgan Street

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o fan sy'n 7 medr i'r gorllewin o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent, am 10 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Diwygier Gorchymyn (Gwahardd Aros a Chyfyngu ar Aros) Bwrdeistref y Barri (Rhif 1) (Ffyrdd Amrywiol) 1971, cyf. TRO 566 fel a ganlyn:

Dileer paragraff 11 o'r atodlen sy'n trafod Lewis Street a rhoi'r canlynol yn ei le:

Lewis Street

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent am 7 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Ar ei hochr ddeheuol o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent am 12 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Dilëer paragraff 13 o'r atodlen sy'n trafod Castle Street a rhoi'r canlynol yn ei le:

Castle Street

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent am 7 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Ar ei hochr ddeheuol o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent am 12 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Dilëer paragraff 15 o'r atodlen sy'n trafod Glamorgan Street a rhoi'r canlynol yn ei le:

Glamorgan Street

Ar ei hochr ogleddol o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent am 7 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Ar ei hochr ddeheuol o'r gyffordd â Park Crescent am 12 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Dyddiedig 22 Rhagfur 2011.

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Loving husband Phil and children.
XXXXX

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Desmond
Peacefully on December 15 at his home in Llanmaes, after a long illness, Des, beloved husband of Dot, dearly loved father of Mandy and Shari, father-in-law of Adrian and Tim, much loved Grampie of Anna, Victoria, Luke, Emma and George.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday December 23, service 1.15pm at Llanmaes Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to St Cattwgs Church, Llanmaes c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

LLEWELLYN
Eironwy
Peacefully on December 18th, Eironwy of Cowbridge, beloved wife of Lyn, dearly loved mother of Michaela, Sara and the late Timothy and Michael, loving grandmother of Alexander.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday December 29th, service 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge followed by interment in Cowbridge Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations may be sent to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

JEWELL
Ian
Peacefully on 18th December, Ian loving father of Debbie, Sallie and Ian and grandpa to all his grandchildren. Sadly missed by all that knew him.
Funeral Service at United Free Church Cowbridge on Thursday, 5th January 2012 at 11am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.
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REDRUP
Edward John (Ted)
Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on December 19th, Ted aged 91 years, of Park Road, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of Betty, loved father of Jill and Elaine. A loving grandfather and great-grandfather.
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The latest news in pictures from from Oak Field Primary School



Congratulations to Kelsey (year-4) who won the 'Name the Christmas Teddies' competition.



ABOVE: A very big 'well done' to all those pupils who received a full attendance award this term.



Congratulations go to Joshua in year-3, who was runner up in the 'Vale of Glamorgan Design a Christmas card competition' run by Alun Cairns MP. Joshua's winning entry can be seen on the back of the official Vale of Glamorgan Christmas Card. He is pictured (above) with his certificate and his winning design.





THE children and staff of Oak Field Primary School recently enjoyed celebrating 'Christmas Around the World' for the day. Each class chose a different country including Spain, Italy, Australia and Brazil.

The children found out about the Christmas traditions and customs from each country and learned how to say Merry Christmas in four languages. They cooked delicacies, made crafts, sang songs and 'Skyped' friends in Queensland! They were even treated to a didgeridoo demonstration by local musician Marcel Davies (*above, left*). The festivities were part of Oak Field's Global Citizenship project.

Eco Schools coordinator Alison Johns said: "The children have had an exciting time learning about how children in other countries celebrate Christmas.

"It's been lovely to see them embracing other cultures and everyone has had a wonderful day!"



The Ysgol Sant Baruc choir entertain the crowd with Christmas songs.

Festival raises £1,800 for three charities

"BETTER THAN EVER!" was a frequent comment from visitors to the annual charity Christmas tree festival in St Augustine's Church, Penarth.

More than 40 trees in the side aisles were on show to many hundreds of admirers who were invited to vote on the best tree.

As well as winning the children's class, Evenlode Primary School was the overall winner by public vote, with a tree depicting Penarth as a town with buildings to be proud of, including the children's own homes.

Also in the children's class, Headlands School won the silver award with a tree of giant liqorice allsorts; while Albert Primary School won the bronze award, and were also the distinguished judge's personal overall winner, with a tree constructed entirely of driftwood.

The trees in the various classes – children's, charity, business, and organisation/group – all showed a high degree of imagination, artistry and colour, while several were also of clever construction.

The collection of decorated trees with their Christmas lights was an uplifting sight.

With a background of wonderful music from local singers and musicians, the whole experience in the church, along with refreshments in the community hall, was a truly memorable one for many families. The same applied to Santa's visit to the children and their families on Saturday morning in the Community Hall.

Then came the procession, marshalled in suitably stentorian tones by the town crier in his full regalia, with children and families following, and led by the piper up through the park to the church steps.

There, the town Mayor, Coun Anthony Earnest, declared the festival open.

Proceeds of approximately £1,800 will be shared by the benefiting charities, Singing for the Brain (Alzheimer's Society), The Leprosy Mission International, and The Autistic Society Cymru. **NM**

Lantern walk lights up Vale country park

MORE than 140 people joined the rangers at Porthkerry Country Park for two magical candlelit walks through the woods.

A mince pie and hot drink, provided by the Forest Café, gave everyone lots of energy for the lantern walk through the Vale park.

The path through the woods was lit up by more than 100 candle-lit lanterns and walkers enjoyed trying to guess the names of well-known Christmas songs on puzzle pictures along the trail.

Once inside, the woods, there were two roaring fires to keep everyone warm and on which to toast marshmallows.

The children were then asked to write their Christmas wish on a specially-made wood cookie to hang on the Christmas tree, while the choir from Ysgol Sant Baruc, Barry, entertained everyone with their singing of Welsh Christmas songs around the fire.

Ranger Mel Stewart, said: "The woods at Porthkerry have never looked so beautiful, with twinkling lights running down through the valley. Even the owls were out hooting to celebrate."

MP's advice surgery

Vale MP Alun Cairns will be holding a surgery for advice and assistance on Thursday, January 5, 2012, at Barry Library, King Square, Barry, from 10.30am-12pm.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

Ty Hafan lottery results

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D701.

- **£6,000:** 349750.
- **£2,000:** 876390
- **£10:** 686769, 130166, 744662, 757418, 463045, 883670, 175399, 205993, 794206, 518131, 242193, 769961, 717274, 234286, 369409, 674460, 845662, 369034, 128875, 497662.
- **£5:** 177887, 882532, 997128, 678987, 188954, 559622, 398722, 804802, 674309, 239687, 412501, 700053, 894146, 607322, 613112, 707772, 384224, 398818, 822485, 651619, 156685, 666368, 274427, 419088, 655573, 761843, 369570, 951910, 414095, 468075, 487661, 867083, 181102, 537192, 753453, 258028, 656041, 252853, 275992, 591525, 411204, 576305, 381440, 659354, 863445, 443311, 147581, 751050, 395765, 623104, 194606, 831398, 281415, 169319, 663272, 431670, 546107, 575495, 846606, 853373.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Barry Seconds squeeze out a derby victory

BARRY Second XV finished their calendar year with a home fixture against neighbours Sully RFC.

BARRY 2ND XV	20
SULLY RFC	10

Coach Rhydian Scott recalled Gavyn Elsworth into the second row and Michael Avaient made his first start for the seconds this season.

On a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon, the visitors opted for uncontested scrums from the off to neutralise the power of Barry's pack.

With the slope and elements against them in the first half, Barry were predicted to struggle before the interval, but some sterling work from the forwards meant that it was a case of anything but.

Some superb carries by the tight five, most notably from Dave Hosking, Bowditch, Gareth Lakin and Elsworth, eliminated any possibility of Sully using the elements to their advantage.

The combination of Kyle Case and Hosking at the line-out was impeccable, while Joel Williams, back at scrum-half, was using quick ball to punch holes in the defence.

After driving the Sully pack backwards deep in their 22, Barry struck the first blow as Williams released Shane Parker to dive in to score in the corner. Adam Lee was unsuccessful with the tricky conversion.

Barry continued to dominate, as the visitors found little answer to the power of the home forwards.

Nick Rolfe was once again involved in the ball carrying, and following a Sully infringement just metres away from the line, Williams took the quick tap penalty to scramble across. Lee failed to add the extras.

The home side continued to use the tried-and-tested method of forward driving, and after camping on the visitors' line, Gareth Lakin powered through to touch down against his former club. Lee missed the conversion.

Lee failed again with the boot with a kickable penalty just before half-time, before a reinvigorated Sully tried to bounce back in the second interval.

There was a noticeable raise in the tempo of the game, and they deservedly got back into the game with two well-worked tries, neither of which were converted.

With the game suddenly back in the balance it was tempting for the green-and-whites to panic, but experience and composure meant that it did not happen.

Lee found his range with his boot to relieve the pressure, while some superb tackling, most notably from Avaient and Hosking, prevented Sully from scoring again.

Instead, it was Barry who looked the more likely with the score at 15-10, with Mike Jones and Case both staring at the line before failing to convert their chances.

After more forward pressure by the tight five, it was finally Lee who scored through a crowd to make up for his earlier misses with his boot. He was unable to add the extras himself.

There was still time for Williams to go on one of his characteristic sniping runs, and for Chow and Boffy to make their cameo appearances, but in the end the score of 20-10 was probably a fair reflection of what was a tightly fought game.

Team: Hewitson; Jones, Parker, Avaient, Jenkins; Williams, Lee; Bowditch, Hosking, Thomas; Lakin, Elsworth; Case (captain), Betts, Rolfe; Subs used: Chow, Boffy, Houldey, Hall.

Man-of-the-match: Hosking.

KC

Young St Cyres gymnast wins a BBC award

ANGEL ROMAEO, a year-10 student from St Cyres School, has won the BBC Wales Carwyn James Junior Sportswoman of the Year award.

The award was announced at the annual BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year 2011 awards ceremony held at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea.

The evening celebrated the past year in Welsh sport.

Angel, a talented young gymnast, was excited to meet the great and the good from Welsh sport at the ceremony. This included not only stars like Sam Warburton from the world of rugby, but also St Cyres alumni and Olympic medallist, David Davies.

Angel's award was in recognition of the gold medal that she won for the Women's All Around Gymnastics Competition at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Isle of Man in September.

At the same games, Angel also picked up silver and bronze medals.

She went to the Isle of Man hopeful of success after being crowned as the British Espoir Champion in 2010.



ABOVE: Angel Romaeo

Angel is currently trying to balance her sporting career with her GCSE studies. The same is true of her sister Venus.

Venus is also a budding gymnast with a great future ahead of her in the sport. Unfortunately, Venus' progress has been hampered recently by injury.

Well on the road to recovery now, Venus hopes to emulate her sister in the years to come.

A school spokesman said: "All the staff and students at St Cyres are very proud of Angel and Venus and wish them all the best for their careers in gymnastics."



Rugby legend Graham Price (seated) joined representatives from the WRU, including Vale rugby development officer Matt Silva (back left) to collect a mountain of donated rugby kit from the Millennium Stadium earlier this month.

Donate your old rugby kit to emerging nations

YOUNGSTERS lucky enough to be given new rugby kit this Christmas are asked to donate any old unwanted kit to underprivileged children from across the world.

The LV=SOS Kit Aid project has been supported by the WRU for the last four years, resulting in £2m worth of recycled kit being sent to kids across the UK and to 19 countries in Africa and Eastern Europe.

A mountain of kit was collected earlier this month from the Millennium Stadium by rugby legend Graham Price, who is the ambassador for LV=SOS Kit Aid in Wales, and further kit donations are always welcomed.

Matt Silva, the Vale Council's rugby development officer, is also supporting Kit Aid and said: "If you receive some shiny new kit in your Christmas stocking this year then Kit Aid would be extremely grateful to be given any old rugby kit that you have outgrown."

To find out more about the initiative please visit www.lvsoskitaid.com, while for details about rugby in the Vale of Glamorgan visit www.vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.

Vale basketballers are off to a flying start

WHILE basketball fans around the world eagerly wait for the NBA lockout to end, the first competitive season of fixtures for the Vale of Glamorgan Basketball Development Centre has started with a bang.

After two years of training and playing friendly matches, last month saw budding players from the Vale take to the courts for some serious game time against their new rivals in the South Wales Valleys Basketball Association League.

The Vale Basketball Development Centre has entered two teams into the under-16 and under-18 leagues, although the Vale squads are actually comprised of under-15 and under-16 players.

Despite competing against boys who are sometimes up to two years older than them, the Vale players have more than held their own.

The under-16s began with two victories on the bounce, chalking up a 90-38 home win over Baglan at the Cadoxton Sports Hall, followed by a 69-45 win away at Swansea Storm.

The under-18s got off and running with an overtime 53-50 win away against Beddau, but then suffered a 52-72 home defeat to an experienced Cardiff Capitals team that boasted three Welsh internationals in their line-up.

The development centre was set up in 2009 by the Vale Council's sports and play development team to give local teenagers who enjoyed playing basketball casually a chance to benefit from professional coaching.

To help the Vale Basketball Development Centre continue to grow, they are keen to hear from anyone aged 16-and-above who would be interested in getting involved in the coaching or organisational side of the sport.

To find out more, please call Ben Williams on 01446 704795.

Barry under-14s see out year with a bang!

HAVING lost last season's encounter against Welsh-speaking outfit CRICC, Barry under-14s were looking to seal 2011 with a positive performance.

With the closure of all Cardiff pitches over the weekend, this away fixture had to be played at the Reservoir Field and when the visitors turned up with only 13 players it didn't look as if supporters would be treated to much of a game.

However, having notched up 18 victories in 21 outings, drawing two and losing two on the way, the under-14s were looking to add to their tally of 552 points, while maintaining a clean sheet for the 11th time this season – and they didn't disappoint.

The game started well for the home side, who enjoyed early possession that was quickly translated into points following a searing run from winger Callum Mickelsen. Captain Cameron Gibbon was quick to convert giving Barry a seven point lead.

From the restart the home side piled on the pressure and despite the presence of a man-mountain in the CRICC second-row, their forwards had nothing to throw at the Barry pack.

Following a series of quick rucks, scrum-half Morien Evans gave Barry a well-deserved score, under the posts for Gibbon to convert.

The Cardiff outfit bounced back and sneaked a try in the corner, scuppering the home side's hope of an 11th clean sheet this season.

Barry hit back with well-deserved tries for the captain and for second-row Tom Winters, who was dominant throughout the game. Gibbon again converted both scores, leaving the first half at 28-5.

The visitors were swept aside in the second half, with Barry rampant in attack and measured in their defence.

Further tries for Winters and Mickelsen, and a brace for the captain, three of which were converted by his ever-accurate boot, left the final score at 54-5 – another resounding victory for Barry under-14s.

Fixtures hot up in the New Year with the second round Blues Cup game at home against Brecon-based side Gwernyfed on January 15, and some tough games against Pentyrch, Treorchy and Llandaff to follow.

Tries: Morien Evans, Cameron Gibbon (three), Callum Mickelsen (three), Tom Winters (two); conversions: Cameron Gibbon (seven)

The coaching team would like wish all players and parents, including sponsors LDS Motor Factors and Realty DHG Limited,. plus all at Barry RFC, a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

If you are an experienced rugby player and are looking to join Barry RFC under-14s, contact Ioan Evans on 07764 256428.

IE

Try fest for Barry under-9s

BARRY under-9s were in stunning form at the Reservoir Field against Pencoed.

From the outset, Barry took the game to Pencoed, and with forwards and backs dominating, it was clear that it was going to be a tough morning for the visitors.

This dominance resulted in quick tries from Myles Latham, Isaac McBride and Spencer Williams; the last after a flowing move, with virtually every Barry player involved. Myles Latham was in inspired form, and the rest of the team responded.

With the Barry tackling so strong, Pencoed struggled to maintain possession. Further tries from Cian Anderson and Seb Fahiya stretched the lead further.

Pencoed responded well after the break, and scored a deserved try to make it 6-1.

This stirred the Bees and Seb, showing great pace, took the ball on the switch from the kick off, and scored.

Ethan Watkins then forced his way over the line after another powerful forward drive.

The floodgates opened and Isaac added his second.

There were further tries from James Latham, and James Chapman added two more, showing great elusiveness.

Barry finished in style with another flowing move, passing from the tackle and surging upfield, before the backs moved the ball wide and Cole Saunders scored in the corner.

This was an exceptional performance from the Bees, and credit must also go to Pencoed who tackled to the end.

Myles was rewarded with the man of the match award and Isaac was credited with best tackler; though both trophies could have gone to any of the players, and they can look forward to the New Year with confidence.

Team: Jake Lang, Isaac McBride, Charlie Bale, Ethan Watkins, James Latham, Myles Latham, Cian Anderson, Stephen Williams, Spencer Williams, Seb Fahiya, James Chapman, Cole Saunders.

JM

Under-14s are caught out

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School under-14s played Whitchurch in the second round of the Griffiths Cup.

With home advantage, Cowbridge approached this cup tie with confidence. Coach and referee Mr Lewis advised the team to 'get the ball down the flanks' to use the goal scoring prowess of Joe Treharne.

Year-9 duly obliged and with some simple pass and move football, Cowbridge raced into a 3-1 lead.

With 20 minutes of the first half gone, Cowbridge were playing with confidence and were expertly marshalled at the back by centre half Owen Alexander.

His partner Ben Jones was able to pick up on through balls and Cowbridge appeared to be cruising.

Kris Jones and Tom Lucas were constant threats and the work rate of Rian Davies in midfield was complemented by the assured passing of captain Dan Oddy.

At half time the score remained 3-1 in Cowbridge's favour.

The half time talk was simple, continue to play the same patterns and use the width of the backs, especially Louis Phillips and Max Ragan. It was as Mr Lewis blew the whistle to signal second half proceedings, that once again a raging gale arrived, which had so affected Cowbridge's previous tie against Radyr.

The home side now found themselves up against a rejuvenated Whitchurch outfit driven on by an inspired central midfield partnership and a force 10 Arctic wind!

Cowbridge ploughed unsuccessfully through the boggy middle third, while Whitchurch whipped the ball out wide.

With five minutes remaining Cowbridge had been pegged back to three apiece. The conditions and the deteriorating pitch meant Cowbridge had spent the entire second half on the back foot.

The neat, swift football of the first half was now but a distant memory.

Two minutes to go and the Whitchurch left wing cut inside and drove a shot towards the top right hand corner. A leap from 'keeper Oliver Pike was in despair, the net bulged, Whitchurch were 4-3 up.

Cowbridge responded with a long ball and a corner but no avail. For the second time this season, the team had been defeated, not only by a sound opposition but also by appaling conditions.

This team has plenty of potential and will continue to work hard. In year-10 they will be a threat to be reckoned with, no matter what the weather!



Paul Saunders mastered tricky conditions to claim Senior Honda success at the Celtic Championship. PICTURE BY HARDY RODDE.

The kart club season concludes in the cold

LLANDOW Kart Club concluded its 2011 season in the shape of the ever popular Celtic Championships.

A field of 70 competitors saw their skills put to the limit on a weekend which apart from being bitterly cold produced a relentless torrent of rain.

The Bambinos kicked the running off with Alex Austin and Brooklyn Thomas. Austin came out on top as the pair relentlessly traded sector times.

Honda Cadet produced its usual 'hustle and bustle' as Daniel Thomas claimed his maiden Celtic Championship. Hugo Holmes followed in close company while Ross Thomas completed the podium.

Tom Rawlings looked set to cause an upset in Comer Cadet but club champion Lewis Griffiths produced the goods when it mattered and took the final, demoting Rawlings to second. Jack Barber finished third.

Despite an early final spin Alex Thomas eventually prevailed in Junior Honda ahead of the reluctant novice duo of Ben Stevens and debutant Tom Ford.

Lewis Malin stormed to a Celtic championship win in Minimax after an opening lap retirement from Harry Williams. Edward Tansley and Rob Ellis completed the rostrum in second and third.

Reigning Welsh Champion Keaton Ford took the Junior TKM Celtic title ahead of the TKM debutant of Ryan Edwards who displayed a controlled drive to earn himself a second place finish. Matthew Ayers followed in close company to finish third.

Macaulay Austin added another title to his name in Junior Rotax following a dominant drive ahead of Peter Saxby. James Williams came home third. Pole man Steven Handford was unable to challenge after an early retirement.

Paul Saunders produced the most popular win of the day after outclassing Welsh and club champion Simon Evans, proving the veteran can still mix it with the youngsters. Danny Griffiths made up for a difficult day by finishing third.

Josh Collings proved unbeatable in Senior Rotax and stormed to a four second win over Chris Davis. Welsh Champ Craig Mooney took third after a last corner lunge at the expense of Senior Rotax new boy Josh Gray. Wayne Stone took the prize in Rotax 177 closely shadowed by Simon Wheeler.

RESULTS

BAMBINO
1. Alex Austin (Zip)
2. Brooklyn Thomas (Birel)

HONDA CADET
1. Daniel Thomas (Project One)
2. Hugo Holmes (Zip)
3. Ross Thomas (Wright)

COMER CADET
1. Lewis Griffiths (Zip)
2. Tom Rawlings (Zip)
3. Jack Barber (Zip)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Alex Thomas
2. Ben Stevens (7Kart)
3. Tom Ford (Biz)

JUNIOR TKM
1. Keaton Ford (CRG)
2. Ryan Edwards (TalKo)
3. Matthew Ayers (Jade)

MINIMAX
1. Lewis Malin (Tonykart)
2. Edward Tansley
3. Rob Ellis (Tonykart)

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Macaulay Austin (Tonykart)
2. Peter Saxby (Birel)
3. James Williams (Tonykart)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Paul Saunders (7Kart)
2. Simon Evans (7Kart)
3. Danny Griffiths (MS Kart)

SENIOR ROTAX
1. Josh Collings (CRG)
2. Chris Davis (CRG)
3. Craig Mooney (CRG)

SIMON EVANS

Horse racing is wishing Joanne speedy recovery

TOTO CORDE MEO, a four-year-old bay filly by Galilieo, landed the bumper (National Hunt flat race) at Towcester last Thursday for Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan.

Ridden by Cheltenham Gold Cup winning jockey Sam Thomas from Abergavenny, Toto Corde Meo, who went off the 5-4 favourite, just got home by a head from 20-1 chance Le Belle Sauvage.

However, Tim's luck ran out on Saturday as at Haydock his Our Island was beaten a length by Cannington Brook in the Maxilead Metals Tommy Whittle Handicap Chase which was worth £19,494 to the winner while over at Ascot his 40-1 outsider Rigidity failed by just half-a-length to beat Raya Star in The Ladbroke (Listed Handicap Hurdle) and land the first prize of £84,405.

JOANNE RECOVERING

All horse racing enthusiasts will want to wish racecourse steward Joanne Hawkins, who has just come out of hospital, a speedy recovery after her operation for cancer.

Joanne currently acts as a British Horseracing Authority steward at Hereford, Chepstow, Ffos Las and Bath and in 2008, after stewarding at a number of point-to-point meetings in the South Wales area, answered a request by the BHA to train other stewards with a view to sitting on the steward panel at Ffos Las Racecourse.

Following the completion of a 10 day training course at racecourses all over the country, then followed by a 12 month probationary period in 2009, Joanne joined the Stewarding Committee as a regular steward at Hereford, Chepstow and Ffos Las.

For the past two seasons, Joanne has attended more than 60 meetings experiencing a wide and varied portfolio of incidents in the Stewards Room.

Sadly, last September, Joanne was diagnosed with cancer and is recuperating at home in Usk.

She was born into the racing world as her grandfather George Rees and her mother Bridget Doherty were both keen hunt-racing fans. She went through the usual Pony Club and Prince Philip Cup team events and hunting before riding out for Vale of Glamorgan trainer Bryn Palling at the tender age of fourteen.

Joanne, who is well known to horsey folk in the Vale, later had horses in training with Mr Palling. She said that her worst racing moment was being involved in a five horse pile-up in a maiden race at Llantwit Major when all five horses came down at the open ditch.

Although Joanne was not injured, she said that approaching the fence with nowhere to go was quite a scary moment.

Joanne rode her first point-to-point winner on La -Champ- Talot at Lydstep in 1980 and that same year she became the first sixteen-year-old female to ride at Chepstow Racecourse finishing second on Moonello in the Jeep Christies Ladies' Hunt Chase Championship.

Joanne would probably have won the race the following year but for being unseated four fences from the finish leaving Rosemary White and Star Nello to land the prize.

Winning a restricted race on her own horse Construction King at Howick, after nursing the horse back from injury, was one of her best racing moments and another was when, as a permit holder, Joanne saddled her first winner Le Mezaray in a handicap chase at Taunton in 1996.

Joanne, who must surely be the best turned out steward in the country, loves nice clothes, fine wine, clay-pidgeon shooting, dining out and ski-ing! She ran the London Marathon in 2003 raising money for children with leukaemia and she hopes to be back racing in the summer.

As for her most hair raising moment she says that was going down a four-man bobsleigh in Sestriere, Italy, home of the 2006 Winter Olympics, with a member of the Italian gold medal winning team,and was just three seconds slower than the winning time!

She has asked me to tell all her friends in the horse racing world, who may think that she has just disappered from the scene, the reason for her absence and that she hopes to be back racing in the summer.

EVAN WINS ON DIRECT LINE

David Brace's Direct Line was a good winner of the second division of the restricted race at the South Midlands Area Club Point-To-Point meeting at Whitfield on Sunday.

Ridden by Evan David, the big ex-Irish chestnut gelding came home two lengths clear of Action Steel in a field of 13 runners. A winner at Black Forest Lodge earlier in the season when partnered by Evan,Direct Line was bought privately by Mr Brace who sponsors the Dunraven Bowl Novices Hunter Chase to be run at Chepstow Racecourse on April 27.

Evan David is the younger brother of jockey Tom David and he rides out for Mr Brace at his Dunraven Stud Farm near Bridgend.

BRIAN LEE

Cottrell ladies get into the festive spirit

RIGHT: Sandra Collin receives her trophy.





ABOVE: Tessa Matthews



ABOVE: Celine Chew

SIXTY-FOUR Cottrell Park lady members enjoyed their Christmas lunch on Thursday, December 8, which was well organised by the ladies' captain Jenny McGlyne.

She also kindly gave each lady a present of a chocolate box.

A few ladies braved the elements and played a 9-hole competition in very muddy conditions, this was won by Tessa Matthews with 16 points.

Following the lunch, there was the annual presentation of prizes, with Mary Watkins, competition secretary, announcing the winners and Jenny McGlyne presenting the prizes with the assistance of Judy James, ladies' vice captain.

The winners were :-

GUW Medal, Vicki Long; Summer league, HelenEvans; Macmillan Spoon, Kay Bradbury and the Summer eclectic Mackintosh; Dragon Brooch, Tessa Matthews; Golf Foundation Brooch, Jennifer Thomas; Grandmothers' Trophy, Gill Downs; Sandra Collin, Pencarreg Cup, Summer eclectic Button and the Birdie tree; Celine Chew LGU Breakthrough Cancer Brooch, Llanfair Trophy and the Cup of Achievement which is awarded to the lady who has the biggest drop of handicap during the season.

There were also 15 monthly medal winners and 14 Stableford winners, all presented with prizes.

A raffle followed the mince pies and coffee, the afternoon finished in traditional style with many of the ladies singing carols.

CB



GREAT DEALS AT PENARTH MOTOR COMPANY – AND THEN YOU CAN DINE OUT ON THEM!

THE Penarth Motor Company has been selling quality used cars at low prices for more than a year and, thanks to the excellent service they provide, the business is expanding.

The owners, Chris Greenaway and Dusty Jones are both local men with many years of experience in the motor trade.

They take pride in looking after customers who live and work locally. Chris explained: "The majority of our vehicles are sourced from main dealer part-exchanges with full or part service history.

"All our vehicles are HPI clear and come with a brand new MoT and an RAC warranty.

"We aim to offer the lowest prices in the area. We have a good selection of cars for everyone's needs and budget, from £500 runabouts to £15,000 prestige marques."

Dusty said that the company takes pride in providing an all-round service for buyers.

"We offer our customers an extensive range of extras, such as organising finance for a purchase and arranging extended RAC warranties.

"Customers can buy a used car from us with confidence and peace of mind.

"We will look after people throughout the whole buying and after-sales process."

Chris and Dusty are now offering their customers main-dealer diagnostic facilities without main dealer prices. They specialise in Citroen and Renault.

They can offer the following:

- Airbag lights
- Engine management lights
- Key programming
- Vehicle re-mapping which improves performance
- ABS faults

Penarth Motor Company customers are getting an added bonus this festive season and New Year.

Chris explained: "If you like to eat out, PMC is giving you the opportunity to save money on eating out in Wales with 'Dine out Wales'.

"We are giving away free 'Dine out Wales' cards with every car purchased from December 22, and all through January!"

With the dining card, people can get 50 per cent off the food bill or 'two-for-one' deals with participating restaurants.

More information on 'Dine out Wales' is available at: ***www.dineoutwales.com***



RIGHT Chris Greenaway and Dusty Jones say customers can dine out on them this festive and New Year season.

Vale trainers take first and second places

FRENCH-bred *J'Adhere*, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, and Irish-bred *Dantari*, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, finished first and second respectively in the Christmas Handicap Hurdle at Taunton on Tuesday.

The former, a 14-1 chance, ridden by Robert Kirk, had three parts of a length to spare over the latter which went off the 11-4 favourite and was ridden by Paul Moloney.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Vaughan had been successful with *WhatshallWeDo* at Bangor-on-Dee.

BRIAN LEE

'Quirky French hatchback will soon win you over'

– says GEM motoring correspondent!

COMBINE a hatchback, a compact people carrier and an off-roader. What do you get? The rather quirky Peugeot 3008, which was introduced in 2009.


The Peugeot 3008

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

At first it seems a bit of an oddity, looking like an oversized 308, but it doesn't take long to warm to this distinctive French character.

It's certainly striking, with surely one of the largest grilles on the market. The boot is particularly interesting. At first glance the floor seems too high but you quickly realise it has a three position boot floor and a clever split tailgate, which effectively lowers it for you.

Then the second row of seats folds flat, all of which means that this vehicle has immense load carrying capacity. That's just as well because during the test we collected a dishwasher and it fitted with little difficulty.

As is the norm with all the latest Peugeots, build quality is positively Germanic. Although the top-of-the-range 1.6-litre HDi model tested might be accused of being a little bland, it is finished to the highest standards and is exceptionally comfortable.

When first getting into a car it can take time to get the seat into the desired position but in this 3008, it's all done by the click of a switch, simplifying and speeding up the whole process.

My wife particularly likes the leather covered passenger handle on the dash, giving her something other than my throat to grab as I put my foot down!

However, this generally refined family-friendly vehicle suffers from being a little lethargic, particularly on start-up, requiring a bit of help at times. Even in first gear it requires a bit of a boot on occasions to get moving. When overtaking in third it quite often doesn't have the desired impetus for challenging manoeuvres, making it necessary to change down to second for higher revs.

These comments are perhaps a little unfair though, because over the course of the week we have become decidedly good friends and once it's up to speed, it effortlessly cruises.

Fitted with a massive panoramic glass roof that stretches the length of the vehicle, occupants can enjoy the glistening sunlight on those crisp, cold winter mornings, and the excellent heated front seats keep the driver and front passenger warm, too.

The unique and well-placed Peugeot head up display provides useful speed and distance information. This glass screen at eye level in front of the driver pops up when the ignition is turned.

Parkers, the car experts, write: "*According to Peugeot, the 3008 is a family car that aims to appeal to those looking for something different.*

"The 3008 is perhaps not as stylish as the Qashqai, but it makes up for it with a more practical and family-friendly interior.

"It has a large and versatile boot, a useful split tailgate with a bottom section that flips down like a pick-up, plus plenty of passenger space in the back. It's reassuring to drive too, with well-weighted steering, a superb ride and strong engines, in particular the HDi diesels. Add in impressive levels of refinement, plus a quality cabin and the 3008 makes plenty of sense."

The Pug might be an acquired taste but it has strong presence and is a good all-rounder. It delivers around 42mpg and has a decisive six-speed gearbox as well as cruise control, which can be activated from as low as 25mph – very useful for speed cameras in residential areas.

Those seeking a bit more oomph would be well advised to consider the 2-litre HDi model. It will reach 60mph from standstill in a little under 10 seconds, has a top speed of 121mph and delivers similar miles per gallon figures to the 1.6-litre diesel.

That said, it's been hard to say goodbye to my French friend.

New price range: £21,045 - £29,950.

Used price range: £8,485 - £16,520.

1.6-litre HDi Allure 112;

Economy: 42.7mpg; 0-60mph: 13.6 secs; Top speed: 112mph.

Appeal by local dog kennels

KENNEL managers are appealing for help to make the lives of homeless dogs a little bit more comfortable over Christmas.

The Vale Council, whose dog warden service uses Croft Kennels in Bridgend, will collect donations of suitable toys, treats and clean blankets for its canine residents.

The manager of Croft Kennels, Janet Long, said: "It would be really nice for the dogs to have some new toys and treats for Christmas.

" Appropriate toys, such as those which can be filled with food, are essential to a dog's well-being and can alleviate some of the symptoms of kennel stress. Toys can be entertaining and rewarding for the residents. The dogs in the kennels are usually fed a dry, complete food but some animals prefer the more palatable tinned dog food, and donations of these items are also gratefully received.

"Tinned fish, such as sardines, are particularly enjoyed by dogs recuperating from operations or illness."

To make a donation, telephone 01656 862288. Alternatively, you can drop donations off at the Vale Council's Civic Offices, at Holton Road, Barry.

Anyone wishing to adopt a dog can contact 01656 862288; website: http://www.croftrescuekennels.net/.

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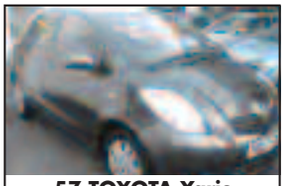
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57 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-door
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54 AUDI A4 3.0 Sport Convertible Auto. In met blue with full beige leather, 85,000 miles **£6,995**
54 NISSAN X-Trail 2.2DCi SVE. In black with leather, sat nav, 1 lady owner, diesel, 4x4 at **£6,995**
08 08 MITSUBISHI Colt 1.5 CZT. 3-dr, pearl black, 1 owner, 42,295 miles **£6,495**
04 MERCEDES C200 Kompressor Avantgarde Auto black with leather, 67,000 miles, 1 owner . . . **£6,495**
53 LANDROVER Freelander 2.0 Diesel 'S'. 5-dr in silver, 74,000 miles, durable 4x4 at **£5,495**
06 SKODA Octavia 2.0 FSi Sport. In silver, 59,964 miles **£4,995**
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56 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Special Edition in yellow, 70,000 miles, 1 owner, fsh, alloys etc **£3,995**
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Wednesday 28th December	SALES/SERVICE	8.30am - 5.00pm
Thursday 29th December	SALES/SERVICE	8.30am - 5.00pm
Friday 30th December	SALES/SERVICE	8.30am - 5.00pm
Saturday 31st December	SALES	9.00am - 5.00pm
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09 09 Mercedes Benz C220 Auto CDI Sport 1 owner, 28k, diesel, FSH



07 07 MINI Cooper Sport 2 owners, 46k, FSH



08 08 HONDA Civic CDTi SE 51k, diesel, FSH



07 57 BMW 116 ES 5dr, 53k, FSH



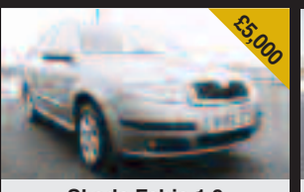
08 08 Mazda 5 1.8 TS2 45k, FSH, 7 seats, 1 owner



Kia Sedona 2.9 CRDi L Diesel, 7 seats



08 58 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 3dr, 35k FSH, 1 owner



Skoda Fabia 1.9 Elegance Estate 1 owner, FSH, Diesel



02 02 Volkswagen Lupo E 1.0 3-dr, 99k, grey



04 04 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique 5-dr, Sunroof



53 03 Fiat Punto Active 1.2 3-dr, 49k, fsh, red



07 57 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Exclusive 5-dr, 71k, FSH



03 53 BMW 318SE Touring 86k, FSH



58 08 Ford C-Max Zetec Auto. FSH



08 58 Renault Grand Modus 1.2 Dynamique 58k, FSH



05 55 Renault Megane 1.4 Oasis 3-dr, black



07 57 Citroen C2 1.4 Cool 62k, FSH



02 02 Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 69k, blue, fsh



03 52 Mercedes Benz A Class 170 CDi Avantgarde. Diesel Auto



05 55 Ford Fiesta Zetec Climate 3dr, 1.25, 62k, FSH



05 55 Vauxhall Corsa SXi 3dr, 1.2, 42k



04 04 Renault Clio 5dr 1.4 Expression 66k, FSH



06 06 Ford Ka Style 1.3 Alloys, 38k



04 04 Ford Streetka Luxury Blue, convertible, 67k

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A WINTRY DAY IN WATTSTOWN SEES BARRY RFC SLIP UP

BARRY travelled to Wattstown last Saturday on a day when winter arrived with a vengeance.

WATTSTOWN RFC	9
BARRY RFC	3

Snow and sleet greeted the faithful followers and playing conditions were such that the referee consulted both teams before taking the decision to proceed with the match.

With wind, sleet and a bog to play on, it was never going to be a day for enterprising back play.

Barry were first into their stride and they began playing the correct tactics with driving forward play. While Wattstown had the heavier pack, it was the visitors who displayed the better technique.

Barry earned a penalty, which Lee was unable to convert from distance. The home team responded on the back of a very good kick to the corner. From this position they forced Barry to concede a try under the posts. Their efficient outside half made no mistake with the kick to give his side a narrow lead.

With no let up in the weather, success or failure in controlling the ball continued to be a lottery. The visitors, notably Hunt, McTavish and Jones, persevered gaining their just reward when the forwards drove hard into the heart of their opponents' defence.

Wattstown were in disarray and forced to concede a penalty on their twenty-two metre line. Lee made no mistake to level the scores at three points each.

The referee, who was having a reasonable game given the extreme conditions, blew up early on after an understandably disjointed first half.

Wattstown started the second period with fire and determination. With the referee awarding almost every 50/50 decision to them they had added two more penalties in the first ten minutes.

To their credit Barry shook off these setbacks to force themselves back into contention. During this period there was sterling work from Evans, Williams and Deguara.

Barry were gaining progressively more possession and territory. The home side were forced to play second best. The visitors set up camp on the Wattstown line and were desperately unlucky not to score a try - it was not for want of trying!

From this point it was slog, slog and slog with the Melbourne Marauders recruit, Glyn Jones, thoroughly enjoying his return from sunny Oz.

By the close both sides were out on their feet and all members of this Barry team had played with passion and deserve credit for a fine performance. Their prize should have been at least a share of the spoils.

Barry: Poole, Williams, Ryan, Evans, Adams, R.O'Sullivan, Lee, Hunt, R.O'Sullivan, Hollister, McTavish, G.Jones, Deguara, Harrison, H.Jones©. Replacements. Evans, Heard, Bourne, Gallivan.

Merry Christmas to all our players, coaches, committee, support staff and supporters. The next game is at home to Pontyclun on Saturday, January 7.

CO

Good away win for Dinas shows Steel

THE first double of the season against third place TaTa Steel, and a well deserved victory built on a really strong team performance.

WELSH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO	
TATA STEEL	0
DINAS POWYS	2

Damien Lack stepped in for the suspended Dave Burnett in goal and pulled off a couple of saves when the visitors did get any shots on goal.

In the main a strong performance from the defence kept the home side at bay, with Richard Yarr, Adam Raymond, and Will Penikett wresting the midfield initiative from the home side to form the basis of this win.

Playing with the cold wind behind them, the home side had the major share of early territory and Dinas were grateful to Lack in the seventh minute when he acrobatically got a fist to a shot to put the ball over the crossbar.

A minute later the home side thought they had taken a lead when Liam Saroka got his head to a cross, the ball ending in the net but he had clearly fouled the keeper in doing so.

But it was Dinas who got the all important opener following a throw. Joe Hinds got his head to a cross and when the ball was laid on for Will Penikett he made no mistake from close range at the far post.

The home side pushed forward in search of an equaliser but their attempts foundered on a strong Dinas defence, and when the visitors did get forward Liam Jeremy shaved an upright when put through.

Minutes before half-time, Dinas were awarded a free-kick on halfway. Adam Raymonds' well struck ball into the area glanced off Chris Hinam's head and just inches from the far post.

There was still time for Tatas' David Brown to get his head to a free-kick but he could not direct it on goal and Dinas went in deservedly a goal to the good.

Keeper Lack had to deal with an early effort before Dinas started to push the home side back and when Adam Raymond's shot was deflected wide the resulting corner fell to Will Penikett and his twenty yard shot was inches wide.

Most of the home side's crosses and free-kicks were clearing their attack but twenty-five minutes into the half an excellent cross was left by Craig Baker for Liam Saroka in space at the far post but his rushed volley cleared the crossbar.

Substitute Gareth Tedstone, on for injured Liam Jeremy, headed a corner wide and Adam Raymond forced the keeper Mathew Stanton into a low save before Liam Saroka replied for the home side with a shot across goal but just wide.

Dinas manager Mark Dunford introduced sub Steffan Davies with five minutes to go and within a minute he had put Dinas two up. A Tata free-kick was cleared by the Dinas defence to Richard Yarr and his astute pass found Davies running at the home defence.

He beat a defender before placing the ball past the advancing keeper and into the net from twenty yards.

The home side pushed forward for the remaining minutes but Dinas dealt with everything thrown at them before the referee blew for full time.

With a three week break to their next game at The Murch against Aberbargoed Buds - all at Dinas Powys Football Club would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Squad: 1. Damien Lack, 2. Chris Lewis, 3. Chris Hinam, 4. Mike Lewis, 5. Dave Penikett, 6. Will Penikett(1), 7. Robbie Fowler, 8. Richard Yarr, 9. Joe Hinds, 10.Adam Raymond, 11. Liam Jeremy. Subs: 12. Gareth Tedstone, 14. Steffan Davies(1), 15. Joe Briscombe.

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, January 7 - Dinas Powys v Aberbargoed Buds, kick off 2:00pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

Barry YMCA's gymnasts strike gold!



ABOVE: Young Barry gymnasts scooped medals galore at the Welsh floor and vault championships held in Swansea.

AT the recent men's Welsh floor and vault championships in Swansea, there were medals galore for Barry YMCA's young aspiring gymnasts.

In the under-7 boys team, Mason Gunter, Marc Eveleigh, Harvey Lewis, Sean McLoughlin and Sammy Morgan, won gold.

Sammy also won a gold medal in the floor and vault combined score.

In the under-8 team event, Barry YMCA took yet another gold. The team were Jack Roberts, Reuben Hopkin, Sam Stopgate, Jack Taylor and Jack Ollier. Jack Roberts won silver in the overall scored for floor and vault.

The under-10 team saw Barry enter two teams. Team A comprised Morgan Jenkins, Harri Morgan, Devante Akhurst, Luke Evans and Alex Gibb.

Team B: Danny Harris, George Lawrence, Lloyd Williams, Kyle Cates and Mason Gronow.

Morgan Jenkins from team A took gold overall in the individual, and Luke Evans from team B took bronze overall in the individual.

The under-12 competition vault gold medalist was Christopher Webber.

The men's gold medalist on both floor and vault was Iwan Mepham.

Well done to all the gymnasts and coaches, Bradley Haysham, Connor Lewis and Emma Thomson.

MS

Dinas minis in action

WITH the temperature just above zero, Dinas Powys minis beat the weather to play a round robin tournament amongst each other at Leckwith Stadium astro pitch on Saturday.

All mini and junior football in the Vale and Cardiff was hit by the weather this weekend, but the mini-section of Dinas descended on Leckwith in an army of Red and Black.

The players had an hour of round robin games showing off their skills in front of their parents, who were thankful the sun was out.

A big thank you to the chairman for sorting the venue out at short notice, and all the coaches who helped it run smoothly on the morning.

LS

Vote for the best Vale sporting talent

A SPORTING 'who's who' of local talent will soon be battling it out for nominations for the 2010-11 Vale of Glamorgan Sports Personality of the Year Awards.

Organised by the Vale District Sports Council, and supported by the Vale Council's sports and play development team, the prestigious ceremony will be held in Spring 2012 to reward sporting success that was achieved during the last two years – 2010 and 2011.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "There are 11 award categories in which you can make nominations, and you may want to suggest élite performers who made the headlines during the last year, or individuals and teams who are making a big impact on the local sporting scene.

"For example, it could be a coach who is achieving excellent results against the odds, or a volunteer who goes the extra mile.

"All nominees must either be from the Vale of Glamorgan, currently live there, or represent a team or club in the county."

A judging panel will whittle the nominations down to the winners, who will be presented with large glass trophies, while two runners-up in each category will receive smaller glass trophies.

The winners will also have their names engraved on a shield, cementing their place in local sporting history.

Nominations can be made online at *www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportspersonality* by the deadline of Friday January 6, 2012.

For further details about the awards, telephone the Vale Council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, on 01446 704793.



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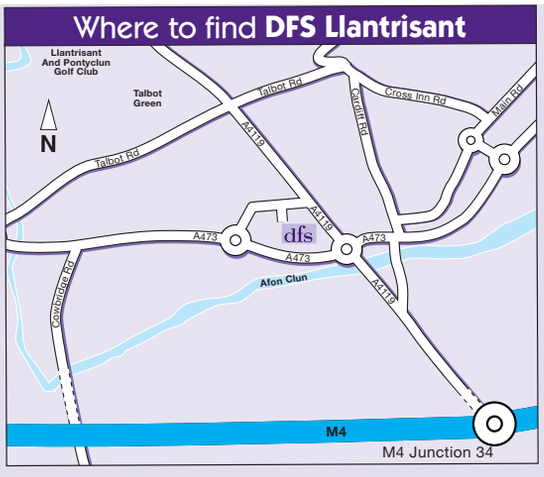
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